

Victoria Street Newz

June/July 2005

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Vol. 2 No. 1

Time to talk of many things ...

Time for a Guaranteed Livable Income

By Cindy L'Hirondelle

"...if liberals and the left do not re-embrace the end of work and the need to give everyone income as a right of citizenship, unconnected to employment, they will help usher in a much bleaker future of growing class polarization and widespread immiseration."

Dr. James Hughes, "Embrace the End of Work" (betterhumans.com)

A Guaranteed Livable Income is absolutely necessary to ensure that all world citizens have enough money to buy nutritious food, decent housing, health and dental care and all the other things that we all need to stay healthy and live full lives. Most people today find the idea of providing everyone with a guaranteed livable income preposterous. However, nothing is more preposterous than trying to get everyone in the world a living wage job. Society demands that people must work and be productive even though we are now producing a surplus of goods and services; even though we are wasting and polluting natural resources -- the actual source of life and health-- and even though we are producing mountains of consumer products that are harmful or unnecessary.

Production is the new religion for humanity even though it is now the very thing that is destroying our lives and the lives of all other living things. Any act of production is

considered moral and good while those labeled "unproductive" are almost universally condemned -- in spite of the fact that they cause the least damage to the planet. To borrow the wording of slavery abolitionist Sojourner Truth, the rich condemn the poor and the poor often condemn each other and even themselves for not being "productive members of society."

Because of this illogical pursuit of infinite production, society condemns the majority of the world's population -- including hundreds of millions of children-- to lives cut short and immiserated by poverty *even while there is a surplus of goods and services.*

According to the book Food Politics (2003), "the U.S. food supply is so abundant that it contains enough to feed everyone in the country nearly twice over -- even after exports are considered." There is a world wide glut of almost everything. GM has a glut of nearly 1.2 million unsold vehicles, "bike makers side-swiped by flood of imports" reads another headline and the U.S. is imposing quotas to "curb the flood" of Chinese textiles. (from 2005 articles in the Globe & Mail)

People are repeatedly told that the way out of poverty is to make people productive. This economic myth is the main weapon used in the war on the poor. Low-income people struggle against the label of being 'unproductive,' even though at this point, the earth desperately needs *less production*, not more. In a world where "productive" means proliferation of junk food outlets and destruction of old growth forests, we should all aim to reduce production, not increase it and we should be damn proud for not participating in the accelerated destruction of the planet and all living things on it.

But we cannot defend this position without having the tools to do it. This article is intended to be a toolbox of economic facts that we can use to fend off lethal economic lies that put our lives and the earth's life in jeopardy and that we can also use to build the case for a guaranteed livable income.

1) **Over-production.** People are told that being productive is the only way out of poverty. This might make sense if production was based on human capacity and human needs. However, the capacity for machines to produce now far outstrips the ability of humans to consume.

Industry has a never ending quest to increase productivity through technology. We should celebrate the liberation of people from drudgery,

(Continued on page 3)



The Raging Grannies were founded in Victoria in 1987, originally to protest the presence of nuclear submarines in Esquimalt's harbour. Their recent book, *Off Our Rockers and Into Trouble*, tells a compelling and heartwarming story of courageous, wise, and good-humoured social justice activists (www.touchwoodeditions.com). The Grannies are now an international phenomenon (www.geocities.com/raginggrannies), and they're proudly listed on Tourism Victoria's website at www.travel-victoria.com.

About Street Newz

“Building Bridges within our Downtown Community”

The **Victoria Street Newz** mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria Street Newz is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for \$.50 each, and resell them by donation. We like the sliding-scale method of donations because it offers folks a choice.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the **Victoria Street Newz** coalition and vendors, and by reading information that informs you directly about poverty and homeless issues. Please consider purchasing another copy later in the month, for a friend.

Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (for confirmation), and may be edited for length.

Opinions expressed in this newzpaper are not necessarily those of **Victoria Street Newz**, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers.

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http://streetnewz.communitypipe.org

Victoria Street Newz is a project of the Bread and Roses Collective - a not-for-profit Society whose purposes are to relieve poverty and advance educational opportunities for socially disadvantaged and/or economically marginalized people.

If you want to support the Bread and Roses Collective, you can donate to Vancity account #484824, branch #42. We've extended invitations to Mask Removal Productions and Mosaic the City to solicit donations using our non-profit structure, but currently the Victoria Street Newz is the only project receiving direct funding.

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Well-behaved women
rarely make history.

.... colonization takes many forms ... by janine

I have a feeling that my bones are buried somewhere near Gonzales Hill and Walbran Park in what's now south Oak Bay. Well, not my bones exactly, but the bones of the body I lived in maybe hundreds of years ago. Call me crazy, many have, but I believe the spirit is eternal and there are more options available than merely choosing between heaven or h-e-double hockey sticks. There's a karmic cycle of life that wants us to reconcile our spirits with our experiences, both good and bad.

There is very powerful spiritual energy on top of Gonzales hill, I'll bet it was long considered a sacred place, and being there causes me to wonder - where are the local native burial sites? Where were the townsites? Why aren't there any commemorative plaques acknowledging that this land was once inhabited by non-Europeans, and that they never officially surrendered it?!

Colonization takes many forms. There are plaques all over town marking the European history. There's one on Beach Drive suggesting that March 1843 saw the "first few days of Victoria's existence." Prior to that, apparently, this land was simply a figment of someone's imagination.

A friend of mine told me he and his buddies used to scramble up and down the Gonzales Hills when they were kids, before all the houses were built. I thought of them as I stood on top of that hill, and about the Native ancestors who climbed the hills before them. How did they feel when they first caught sight of those sailing vessels delivering white men who declared the land as their own? Did they fight to save their precious homeland - the ancient forests, the fields of purple camus whose bulbs were traded up and down the coast, the abundant oceans filled with healthy salmon, the clean and bountiful creeks and rivers they shared with otters and bears - or did they offer friendly greetings to the Europeans, unaware of the changes that awaited them?

Colonization, it seems to me, is pandemic - endorsed and encouraged by the current economic system. My parents, for example, fought a war against fascism and the colonization of Germany and the world by the Nazis. After the war their efforts were rewarded with massive unemployment in England and they chose to move to Canada. They didn't know about the peoples' lives that they, as part of an enormous population shift, were displacing. That information wasn't part of the immigration brochures.

Fortunately, the Europeans brought with them centuries of fine literature, music, and art, plus laws ensuring public access to waterfront. That's why we have Beacon Hill Park, and Spanish Banks in Vancouver, for example. What's happened to those laws as increasing amounts of land is claimed and sold and developed and traded?

Colonization takes many forms. There's a new plaque along the Bowker Creek pathway, near Oak Bay's fire station, showing how that little creek, somehow, miraculously, meanders its way through the city to empty into the ocean. Who knows how much fertilizer and lawn chemicals it carries along with it. One of my friends said - if you go to the beach with the intention of unloading a truckload of drano you're arrested. If you dump it down your sink, you're a good consumer (see page 19 for options).

Colonization takes many forms. Remember the historic 1993 Clayoquot Sound protests when over 800 peaceful earth-lovers were arrested for their efforts to protect some of the last temperate rainforest on earth? The bulldozers continue their work, and they're taking the Lower Walbran, near Glad Lake. If you haven't yet experienced the indescribable beauty of the last of earth's primeval temperate rainforests, do it soon before they're all pulped into toilet paper. It'll change your life forever.

Colonization takes many forms. The Telus presidents were paid more than \$6.5 million each during 2004. Telus was, at one time, publicly owned and operated. Now it's held privately, and profits aren't reinvested the way they would be if it were still a crown corporation or a Co-operative, for example. Proponents of privatization might argue that these profits would not exist if the business were publicly owned, but that's a weak argument. Business is business, it can be conducted effectively or ineffectively in both the public and private spheres.

Also in April our elected representatives in Ottawa's Parliament offered themselves a \$3000 pay increase, with basic salaries at \$144,000. Paul Martin will receive \$288,200 for the next year, cabinet ministers get \$213,200, and \$193,300 will go to the leaders of the NDP and Bloc.

Colonization takes many forms. I've heard it costs about half a million taxpayers' dollars a year to maintain Government House. Meanwhile, a single person on welfare is expected to live on \$510 a month - and you're lucky to qualify. Every dollar a welfare recipient earns is taken back by the government. There's a minimum earning wage, but no maximum wage.

I recently met a nursing student who's paying \$1200 for a 12 week learning experience in the hospital - part of her required coursework. She has no control over her scheduled 120 hours, which may include some overnight shifts and stat holidays. She's expected to re-schedule her entire life around her new schedule including the paid job that helps her keep up with increased tuition costs. Maybe the money students spend at Swan's could count towards their tuition. How much additional revenue is the University enjoying since they inherited that, and the rest of Michael Williams' entire estate?

Since graduating from UVic I've been granted 'interest relief' status because I live in poverty and can't repay my student loan. Each month the interest on my loan is calculated, and paid by the federal government to the Bank of Nova Scotia - over \$4000 to date. I've written numerous times asking that the government do something socially responsible with that money - invest in communities rather than giving it to the bank, for heaven's sake. How many students are on 'interest relief?' All the ones who graduated and qualify for it, and all the ones currently studying and carrying loans. Ca Ching.

Colonization takes many forms. At an election night party, the victory of which has yet to be seen, I heard that somewhere in Europe women are denied health and/or social benefits if they refuse to accept employment - including propositions to sell their bodies.

Imperialism, conquest, and colonialism. It seems to amount to this - I want something, they have it. I promise I'll share it with you if you help me take it from them. They fight to defend it. We fight back. I tell stories justifying my theft. After a while, the lies become the truth.

To paraphrase Thoreau, the unexamined lives aren't worth living.

Indians Discovered
Columbus



Time for a Guaranteed Livable Income ... continued from page one

but instead people fear job loss from automation -- precisely because there is no guaranteed livable income. Other than destroy ing all tools and insisting we must do everything with our bare hands, the only solution is to pay people to not work. We have 21st century technology, but we still have the 16th century morality of the protestant work ethic. We can allow this techno-moral conflict to destroy all life or we can demand a guaranteed livable income. (And no, "moving to where the jobs are" is no solution when over 3 billion people are in urgent need of a livable income.)

2) **Destroying health for jobs.** In the U.S. \$249 billion a year is spent on advertising and 300,000 people "work hard" to convince others to buy things that are either unnecessary or harmful. For example, the goal of Coca Cola is to get people around the world to drink less water and more coke. Coercing people to consume unhealthy products might be very good for the economy (including more jobs in the pharmaceutical and medical industries) but it is very bad for health--especially for children. Switching to non-processed healthy foods would wipe out millions of jobs. A guaranteed livable income would allow for a transition to an economy based on health.

3) **Forced consumption.** For every act of production there must be an act of consumption. Production without consumption means unsold goods, bankruptcies and job cuts. So demanding that people "get a job" really means demanding an increase in consumption. Even a politician making \$100,000 a year still depends on the consumption of junk food, cigarettes, alcohol and all other products to pay their salary. However, there is the matter of free will. People are free *not* to consume anything but essentials. So forcing people to "produce" or die also means forcing people to consume. Without a guaranteed livable income, people must consume in order to provide other people with jobs even though this is destroying our health and the health of the planet.

4) **Destroying the environment for jobs.** We cannot ask people to stop environmentally destructive activities until we tell them how they can stop working and still live without being in poverty. They cannot all switch to making a living by producing some other product for the reasons described previously. Yet again, the simplest way to protect the planet from "hard work" is to pay people to stop working with a guaranteed livable income.

5) **Enslaving women for jobs.** An economic system based on growth requires that women must produce new generations of consumers. Our whole economic system depends on this, yet women are routinely condemned and financially penalized for having children. The "get a job" people say that poor women shouldn't make bad "personal choices" by having babies if they can't afford them,

while at the same time many others say mothers are irresponsible for putting another child on the planet - as if it is women, and not the economic system, that is destroying the planet. The result is a dropping birth rate in almost every country in the world which is already causing economic tremors. "Molson Coors, like all beer makers, is fighting population trends... A crucial customer segment --young men-- is shrinking. In Canada, there are 325,000 fewer [young men] than there were 15 years ago." (Globe & Mail, May 7, 2005).

Those least able to withstand economic downturn from declining populations will be those on the bottom of the economic pyramid. Guaranteed livable income would allow for population equilibrium where women would be neither coerced into having babies to sustain the economy nor denied the choice of having a child due to poverty.

6) **Destroying the possibility of democracy for jobs.** Without basic security we live with the constant fear that we will lose our livelihoods; under such conditions all people can be manipulated by the promise of jobs and money in return for political support.

In spite of these irrefutable economic facts, people will still cling to the idea of jobs being the only solution to poverty because it is so familiar. Yet the jobs solution is long past its 'best before' date. It has gone bad and is turning society into a stinking rotting science experiment. Time to throw the whole job ideology out. All we need to do is ask a few pointed questions. How realistic it is to try to create living wage jobs for billions people on the planet? What goods and services would be consumed to create all those jobs? Is this ecologically possible? Must people consume things they don't need or want just to provide others with jobs and profits? What rational reason is there for demanding that everyone must work if technology has reduced the need for human labour?

A guaranteed livable income (GLI) can be considered economic harm reduction. It will allow people will to *stay alive* while we figure out how to create an economy that is in harmony with the natural world. Only if we call a moratorium on the current destruction of people and the planet, can we hope to have the time and energy to create change.

In addition, if we try to change things without a GLI it means only a few will be able to participate in this process -- usually people who have enough to eat, have a good place to sleep, and do not have dependents, do not have limited mobility or health problems. Hardly a 'just' way to create social change.

There are over a dozen countries in the world with groups promoting guaranteed income. In Canada feminists are beginning to take the lead in this demand (see the Dec. 2004 issue of Canadian Woman Studies). In South Africa the churches, unions and poor people's group have a Basic Income Guarantee Coalition. Those who wish to learn more can go the Victoria-based web site Livable Income For Everyone at www.livableincome.org.

Cindy L'Hirondelle is a founding member of Livable Income For Everyone (LIFE), former coordinator and current collective member of the Victoria Status of Women Action Group and active at a grassroots level on poverty issues since 1988

LIFE is an organization started in 2003 to promote the implementation of universal guaranteed livable income in every country in the world. For more information on the topics raised in this article, check the "evidence" and "articles" pages of the LIFE web site: www.livableincome.org. (Note: "livable is spelled with ro "e" after the "v".) or write to gli2020@shaw.ca.



Photo: livableincome.org

Recyclistas Cycling Co-op



A couple of years ago Ryan Harris and friends turned Bob's RV into a combination bike shop, café, cycling library, child-friendly gathering space, and unique bike art museum.

Recyclistas might be described as an anarchist collective, or an unofficial cooperative. Folks are invited to stop by, fix their bikes, have their bikes fixed, buy parts, or just visit. You can exchange labour for bike rentals, tool use, or parts.

Recyclistas is at 25 Crease St., on the north side of the Galloping Goose switch bridge near the Town & Country Mall. Phone 418-8867 for more information.

cycling news



World Naked Bike Ride

Over 20 cities participating!! Why? Here's your chance to ask them!

June 11th: Victoria, 3 pm, Legislature www.worldnakedbikeride.org

For maps, tour ideas, other cycling info:

Vancouver Island Cycle Tourism Alliance:
www.cyclevancouverisland.ca

**SUPPORT LOCAL
SMALL BUSINESS**

thoughts

what a difference a home makes

Hi Janine,

I really, really liked Gord and unfortunately I missed his memorial as I learned of his death after it had happened. Streetnewz gives me a nice way to say the things I would have said at the memorial. Thanks for all you do.

I learned this past week that Gord McPherson passed away. As I know he was a Streetnewz vendor, I thought I would write a little letter to say goodbye and express how much I'll miss him.

I think it's probably been 4 or 5 years since I first met Gord. I was a Financial Assistance Worker at the disability office and I remember serving him at the duty desk. He came across as a pretty intense guy a first, but this was probably because of how hard it is to always have to ask for what you need.



Over time we built quite a good rapport and when I was transferred down to the DOS office, I continued to get to know him when he'd come in looking for subsidized housing. I clearly remember the day Gord was finally accepted for subsidized housing. He went from a guy known for kicking the door as he left to the guy who loved to pick you up and spin you around.

When I left the Ministry, I worked temporarily in the building where Gord lived. He loved that place. Loved it. He proudly decorated it with banners and posters and bought a stereo he loved. He often invited me in to see changes he had made to the place and showed me around with great pride.

Since I started working with Pacifica Housing 2 1/2 years ago, Gord continued to drop in to say hi now and then. He told me how much he liked selling Streetnewz. He knew he was providing an important service by getting the word out while also making a little extra money. The last time I saw him he told me he was afraid he was going to die and we cried together, but we also hugged and laughed together.

Gord McPherson was a very special person and I'm sure I'm not alone when I say I will miss him very, very much.

Melanie Hope

Street Newz travels to Cuba

On Monday, March 14th, 05 I read my first purchase of Street Newz while on a flight from Veradero, Cuba, to Vancouver, not having had a moment to glance at it in Victoria.

I was very impressed, and would like to support your efforts by asking you to send me a subscription with the enclosed amount. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Elli Boisvert

Economics for Social Justice

Janine,

I want to thank you for your support with my assignment for the Economics for Social Justice course.

I had the opportunity to speak with John on the street, and spoke with Robert over the phone, and both men provided me with their powerful insight into issues of poverty, homelessness and human experience. No doubt, I will be seeing John in my future travels downtown, and I hope my path crosses Robert's as well.

I admire your strength, compassion and wisdom, Janine. I want to remind you that you are invited to connect with me whenever Street Newz needs an extra pair of hands (and a heart) to help with fundraising activities, etc.

Again, thank you for your time, words, emails and energy. If you are interested and have time, I'd love for you to read my paper. I can always use more feedback on my academic attempts!

Take care,
Kathy Smith, student
UVIC School of Social Work

Respect the Native Peoples

The Honourable Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier of BC
The Honourable Mike de Jong, Minister of Forests
The Honourable Guujaaw, President of Haida Gwaii

Dear Sirs,

I am a German teacher, mother and wife. Three years ago I learned about the fate of the First Nations in Canada when Nuxalk Hereditary Chief Qwatsinas visited my school. I am shocked about the genocide, the oppression and the exploitation of resources in your country. I had thought that Canada was a sophisticated, multicultural society. After visiting my Nuxalk friend on reserve in Bella Coola I am convinced that the Aboriginal people live in poverty and their human rights are not respected.

The First Nations of BC never gave their lands away. To me and many other Germans it is clear that the First Nations are in the right. They are the hosts and it is at least the duty of the BC government to consult them in an adequate way.

The Indigenous American culture is indeed a treasure of mankind. BC politicians should not only show off with totempoles and other Native works of art, but respect the Native peoples.

Would you please tell me why Haida Gwaii and Hawaii sound so similar? Is there any connection? I would like to know.

In History we learn that 500 years ago Europeans "discovered" America. In reality it was an invasion, but not a discovery. I think now we discover the Indigenous Americans! Certainly we can't undo what has happened. But as a German Aboriginal I can understand you pretty well!

May the Force be with You, Guujaaw and Haida people!

Yours sincerely,
Angelika Hanko, Germany

"Should any political party attempt to abolish social security, unemployment insurance and eliminate labor laws and farm programs, you would not hear of that party again in our political history. There is a tiny splinter group, of course, that believes that you can do these things.

Among them are a few Texas oil millionaires, and an occasional politician or businessman from other areas. Their number is negligible and they are stupid."

*Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969)
34th President of the USA
a Republican (same as Bush)
in a letter written to his brother
November 8, 1954*



Dahr Jamail, reads the Street Newz!

"Weary of the overall failure of the US media to accurately report on the realities of the war in Iraq for the Iraqi people and US soldiers, Dahr Jamail went to Iraq to report on the war himself."

dahrjamailiraq.com

Street Newz Growing Pains

The Victoria Street Newz has survived some rather significant changes the past two months.

We are no longer connected to CEDCO Victoria, and if you sent mail but haven't received a response, I probably didn't receive it. Please call or write if you're in doubt about that.

You can drop off or mail written correspondence to 1027 Pandora Avenue, V8V 3P6.

If you want to visit in person I'm at the Human Rights Coalition office, 418-620 View St. (in the Save the World Building) Tuesdays 10-noon, or you can call 413-3235 to arrange a different time.

(Someone named Peter called wanting to volunteer, but he didn't leave a phone number. Please call again!)

Namaste, Janine

A Proposal for a new B.C. Work and Well-being Act

There are many concerns with the inhumane, inefficient and ineffective provisions of the 2002 *B.C. Employment and Assistance Act*, and the *B.C. Employment and Assistance Act for Persons with Disabilities of 2002*, and implementation of these laws.

One direction for change is to rescind immediately the most problematic provisions of these acts by changing regulations through Orders-in-Council and revising Ministry policies and practices, including:

- rescind regulations on the three week wait, the two year independence test, the two limits on welfare, and lifetime ban for fraud
- rescind regulations that tax employment earnings, gifts, and child support at 100%
- rescind regulations on the low limits on assets
- rescind procedures and contracts that give incentives to workers and officials and profits to for profit companies for reducing costs of welfare and numbers of claimants

The next direction is to explore new regulations and policies regarding reasonable limits on time, income supplements, and assets, that promote flexible, humane responses to crisis and foster work and well-being. These new regulations and policies are crafted in active and substantial consultation with those most affected by insecure income and need for assistance. Research about effective, humane policies and practices will be considered in crafting new regulations.

The third direction is to rescind the two laws replacing them with a “*Work and Well-being Act*”. This new law will be written in consultation with a critical mass of those most affected by insecure income and need for assistance, including individuals, extended families, neighbourhood centres, income and social services workers, employers, landlords and local politicians. Research and experts in welfare will be consulted. Cost-benefit research that attends to all the costs and benefits of policies demonstrate that economic and social well-being increases with well-designed, humane laws fostering work and well-being of individuals and communities.

Principles and provisions of the new act endorse the rights of persons in British Columbia to civil rights of citizenship, livelihood and security of person, and the prohibition against involuntary work as stated in the Canadian Constitution and the UN Covenant on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights.

Mandatory provisions in the act will:

- Promote well-being of persons and communities.* There will be swift responses to crisis, to prevent further problems and costs, as well as stable responses to chronic needs. Persons and extended families in crisis will be seen within 48 hours by persons capable of giving assistance. Flexible, substantial financial and other support are provided in a predictable way to minimize dislocation, evictions, and crisis, and to encourage participation in a community
- Foster provisioning work.* Work is defined as activities that provision for the necessities of life. Work includes parenting, healthcare for oneself and others, employment in jobs, and voluntary contributions to community welfare. There will be substantial financial and other resources provided to promote work activities. As individuals live in communities, at least 5% of the Ministry of Human Resources total budget will be dedicated to community and group initiatives that foster innovative work activities such as cooperative child minding, lending circles, buying food clubs etc.
- Institute flexible public delivery of services.* To ensure prompt and flexibly services, new avenues of delivery are to be explored in association with community public services such as libraries, schools, and post offices. Student loans are currently now available through post offices, and many services are delivered through post offices in England. Changes will begin in demonstration projects and in consultation with the proposed coordinated, one-stop “Services Canada”, similar to the CentreLink centres in Australia.
- Ensure accountability.* Delivery of services will be publically governed. Those seeking financial and other assistance, and those providing it will be accountable to the public and to elected representatives, and to provincial and local advisory “Work and Well-being” Progress Boards whose work is mandated and financially supported. The provincial board will report directly to the provincial governments; the local ones to municipal and regional governments. Ten percent of claimants and offices will be randomly audited annually by independent reviewers, similar to audits conducted by insurance companies of claims and income tax. There will be advocacy services to support appeals of problems to independent Appeal Boards. The provincial and local “Work and Well-being Progress Boards” may initiate investigations individual and community concerns that threaten work and well-being, and develop mediation panels of citizens and officials, similar to the research and restorative justice approaches pioneered by aboriginal communities and local *justice committees, legislated under recent federal legislation.*

This document prepared by Dr. Marge Reitsma-Street, Professor, Studies in Policy and Practice, University of Victoria, February 25, 2005 as a contribution to debates on welfare policy in the upcoming election. Submitted to Cathy Woods, Creative Resistance. Also prepared for use by Bruce Wallace (Faith in Action), Taproot (Together Against Poverty), and Janine Bandcroft (Street Newz)

Ted Hawryluk, Street Newz Vendor

It was Ted Hawryluk's birthday on May 17th and when I asked him what he wanted he said “no more BC Liberals!”

He didn't quite get that wish and, in retrospect, what he meant was “let's get rid of those politicians who have no concept of how so many people ‘living in poverty’ actually live their lives day-in day-out, YEAR AFTER NUMEROUS YEAR...!”

The funny thing about it is that Ted was a very devoted capitalist until the system screwed him over a few times. When he was a teenager he worked at a construction company that didn't pay his final wages. So, he went to the architect that employed the construction firm and asked them not to pay the construction company any more money until the workers were paid what was owed to them. Ted was passed off to a junior architect who told him “the only way not to get ripped off from a boss is to be the boss ... six hours later I learned how to read blueprints and starting bidding on contracts.”

Ted graduated from Edmonton's Victoria Composite High School in the 70's and started a construction company. “I was a complete general contractor, anything you wanted built I'd have it built for you,” Ted told me. He “scored some major contracts, all outside the Edmonton boundaries – Bruderheim, Drayton Valley, Grand Prairie (a sixty suite apartment building) – single family dwellings” and he worked in conjunction with a Calgary company on the Calloway Park Amphitheatre and Flume Ride (south and north of Calgary). “My blood is on both of them, and I still have a few splinters of wood under my skin.”

When Alberta's oil economy shifted, Ted sold his construction business to his employees and got a job as a baker's helper. “In 1982 Trudeau and Lougheed fought over oil prices,” Ted reminded me, “it killed Alberta's economy, and my business, because oil workers were buying the homes I built. They turned the inter-provincial pipeline off, and eventually turned it back on, but the boom was over. If the oil doesn't move from east to west, Alberta's a dead duck.”

Eventually Ted bought a bakery. “I made my bread by making bread,” Ted laughed. He held contracts with VIA Rail and a few hotels, but after suffering several severe industrial accidents Ted was left bankrupted, depressed, and now suffers with Industrial-Asthma - the dreaded baker's disease. He sells the Victoria Street Newz, with his little doggie B-OK, and works to eliminate poverty, war, and global corporate greed.

Recently Ted was harassed by two local police-women who insisted he show them id, even though he was wearing the bright pink City of Victoria license vendor badge and carrying an arm full of Victoria Street Newz papers. They accused him of ID fraud and ID theft, saying that the ID card he showed wasn't really his. They said they were looking for someone named Wayne, and they were sure Ted was him. “All I could think of was Abu Ghraib, a woman standing with a prisoner on a dog leash, and how quickly those in power can abuse your human rights” Ted said.

Ted is currently helping the Gabriola Island Radio folk get some real FM air time – Thursdays, 6-7 pm, CFUV 101.9 fm, 104.3 cable, live at cfuv.uvic.ca.



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In loving memory of Dr. David Wolsk
Associate, Centre for Global Studies
Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education
University of Victoria, Canada

This is to inform you that my father has passed away. He died from a massive stroke. He died peacefully and in harmony with his own beliefs and wishes.

We want to thank you all for your participation in his ideas, hopes and dreams for a better world. I know that the big circle of people that corresponded with him through the years meant everything to him, being able to communicate with likewise thinking people around the globe was what made his own creative thinking meaningful. The everyday dialogue through email, meetings, workshops, conferences and work situations, was a daily joy and inspiration.

Thank you kindly, Julie Wolsk Bentzon and Nina Wolsk, his daughters and his wife Ingrid Wolsk

Silent Spring?

When Rachel Carson finished her seminal work, 'Silent Spring' in 1962, she could have no way of knowing the literal irony her title would hold for we living in this green and pleasant Victoria in 2005.

Carson's book was a bellwether warning against the unregulated use of pesticides and the effects these would have on the natural world. The silence she alludes to is the devastating reduction of birds due to the eradication of their insect food source. Thus, the absent bird songs of Spring humans have listened to and been inspired by forever.

True to her prediction, the avian populations of North America and beyond are severely stressed, their numbers overall reduced by half in the last decade. But there is no silence here in Spring. Victoria, the renowned 'City of Gardens' rings, as I write, with the machine song of lawn-mowers, weed-whackers, and leaf-blowers.

Beyond the racket, these devices present a further threat to the remaining natural world we all wish to live amid. In California, where air quality is a pressing concern, opposition to gas-powered garden appliances has focussed concerns on the environmental costs of allowing their unfettered access to the air-shed.

In 1999, Zero Air Pollution LA, (ZAPLA), a grassroots organization working for a cleaner, "NoBlow" environment conducted public opinion surveys to elicit comment on the neighbourhood scourge. They report: Results of Survey99 (www.zapla.org/survey99/index.html) show

- ◊ -75% of participants would like to see more restrictions on blowers, and
- ◊ -62% would like to see blowers banned.
- ◊ -64% of participants changed their own routines sometime within a typical week due to the use of blowers.
- ◊ -56% of this group do so often or daily.
- ◊ -70% of participants state that blowers in their neighbourhood disturb them.

The overwhelming unpopularity of these destruction machines is not new in California. As far back as 1978, the well-heeled residents of Beverly Hills banned leaf-blower use within that jurisdiction. Others too have fought to eliminate the obnoxious machines, and ZAPLA says they are continually receiving requests from neighbourhoods wishing to follow suit.

In 1991, Santa Monica, California drafted their own law to deal with the menace and were quickly followed by: Albany, Bakersfield, Belvedere, Carmel, Coronado, Davis, Del Mar, Downey, Hermosa Beach, Hillsborough, Malibu, Newport Beach, Ojai, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and others. (Please see www.zapla.org/overview/blowerdef.html for more).

The City of Victoria convened a committee in 2002 to address noise pollution, and leaf blowers were included in the area of concern. They announced then the creation of a City Noise Map, [please see: (www.city.victoria.bc.ca/cityhall/departments_plnblw_noise_media_020930.shtml)] to be completed by Wakefield Acoustics Ltd. But, a search of the City website reveals no initiatives to address air quality issues created by these machines. To date, the noise bylaws have been ineffective, as any stroll through local neighbourhoods will attest, in curtailing

the use of leaf blowers and other highly polluting two-stroke engine gardening equipment.

As with most things, it's a political dilemma. The users, retail sellers, and manufacturers of these tools oppose laws threatening their businesses. But, as ZAPLA points out, many of these opponents to regulation do not live in the community, and may be more concerned with their own economic interests. Landscapers and professional

gardeners are especially vulnerable to bans and restrictions, and argue their business survival is imperilled, but there are, ZAPLA notes, alternatives to the din and polluting status quo. They recommend:

"...blower use can be eliminated or reduced by use of rake and broom, mulching mowers, frequency of mowing grass, electric (or battery operated) vacuums, and changes in landscape design and maintenance routine. Routine changes could include edging only every other week, and collecting grass clippings in a mower bag, or using mowers that leave clippings on top of, or push them down into, the lawn."

What must be considered here, as in all civic issues, is the quality of life within the community. Do you wish your Spring mornings and weekends resound with the racket of "industrialized" lawn and garden maintenance? Or is it possible we move away from environmentally detrimental practices towards common sense alternatives that harm none?

Rachel Carson is long gone now, but the people working in her spirit at rachelcarson.org remind of her parting words to us:

"The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction."

Chris Cook hosts Gorilla Radio, a weekly public affairs program, webcast from CFUV Radio at the University of Victoria, Canada.

maybe next time

Although everyone deserves to have a say in the political system that governs them, we Canadians are among the lucky few who actually do. And even though nobody I ever voted for came into power, I still feel better knowing I'm invited to participate. During the past thirty years in which I've been allowed to vote, I've only ever seen the "Top 3 Contenders" (Liberals, Conservatives & N.D.P.) win the election. Considering that all three of these parties have a documented history of ineffectiveness and unscrupulous behavior, I'm a little puzzled why we've never bothered exploring our other options.

One explanation is that people want to align themselves with a winner. They vote for the popular party, the one most likely to win. By doing so, they help perpetuate the status quo. Nothing really changes but people feel comfortable with the familiar disappointment which awaits them.

Another reason why folks are reluctant to vote beyond the "top three" is they feel that these main parties are far more experienced than any of the fringe groups. There's a certain amount of circular logic here that most teenagers will recognize: You need experience to get the job, but if nobody will hire you because you have no experience, how the hell are you supposed to gain the experience you need to get the job??

The reason why capitalists, business folks and over-achieving yuppies want to keep the main parties in power seems fairly evident to me. These parties look after the needs of such people thus creating a self-perpetuating system. But what about the rest of us? Not since Tommy Douglas's free, universal healthcare and Trudeau's introduction of "social assistance" has there been a politician addressing and of *my* concerns. So I vote outside the box; I support one of the underdogs regardless of their platform. I realize that my guy/gal won't get into power, but just knowing that I'm providing one less vote for the "top three" makes me feel like I'm doing the right thing.

I don't believe it takes a particularly brave soul to branch out and support a peripheral party. It only takes a desire for change. Since we already know what doesn't work, what have we got to lose by trying somebody completely new and different? Oh yes...the security of familiarity, any psyche student can tell you how comfortable we humans are with that which is familiar to us. But we also need change in order to grow and challenge ourselves both as individuals and as a society. As the late, great Frank Zappa said: *"Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible"*.

While it's too late now to vote for *real* change by supporting a fresh, new party, you may just want to consider such an option for the next election.

by cyann ray

WHY IS THERE ALWAYS MONEY FOR WAR, BUT NOT EDUCATION?

About Fetal Alcohol Syndrome ... by Glen Peters

A while ago CBC radio ran an interview about the connection between Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, crime and prisons etc. The premise is that people who suffer from this disease often wind up on the wrong side of the law and are likely to spend time in prison as 'repeat offenders'. They become career criminals!

One study estimated 65,000 children in Canada suffer from FAS. The proportion who do time is high! Many who manage to avoid jail are marginalized.

When one factors in the cost of prison space, housing FAS sufferers in prison tends to be a tad Un-economical! And then there's the moral consideration. These are people who have often suffered extreme abuse and misery for a condition they have little or (most likely), no control over.

This is not news; these statistics have been around for years but still they're thrown in jail where they develop the skills necessary to become repeat offenders - at the expense of Canadian taxpayers!

Why are we not doing anything to stop the FAS suffering! Why do we continue to pay the big bucks necessary to imprison FAS victims? Why do we continue to treat some handicapped people as criminals?

Is it apathy, ignorance? Is it tradition? Is there a problem with the collective human conscience? Do we lack empathy? Are there more pressing issues? We don't seem to be in any great hurry to right this injustice

The situation and statistics are not limited to FAS. Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD) is thought to make up a considerable portion of our prison population!

For those of you who are starting to grumble! Something to the effect of 'everybody has an excuse these days!' FAS, Fibromyalgia Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Dyslexia, ADHD bla bla bla. There are many skeptics but 3 percent of Canadians are thought to have significant learning disabilities. That's one hundred thousand Canadians unable to live up to their potential.

In regards to ADHD (something I have looked into) part of the problem is the public's perception of the symptoms, everybody can relate (to the symptoms), everybody forgets stuff, everybody has their moments of distraction, are unable to focus from time to time, boredom, restlessness, anxiety, impulsivity, organizational difficulty etc. What the skeptics fail to understand is the level of severity! The skeptics still like to refer to those with hidden disabilities as having 'bad character'! Its easier that way-I guess?

Telling someone with full-blown ADHD to pay attention is like telling a blind person to open his or her eyes! ADHD is like trying to watch every channel on TV at once; an ADHD victim can't tune out the other channels! It also stands to reason that the level of severity for people diagnosed with attention difficulties will vary, just as some blind people might have only limited vision.

ADHD victims are often considered gifted, able to hyper focus, highly creative and intuitive. Skills that might be useful outside of prison, if only they could overcome the obstacles most of us take in stride!

Chloe, from Food Not Bombs



Food Opportunities for Low Income People

Poor people-- How often have you gone into a soup kitchen only to find an abundance of white bread, meat by products and sweets? How can diabetics and those with food allergies get by on meals provided by soup kitchens, churches, and food banks? Have you ever felt that the combinations of foods or times food is available for free make getting an adequate diet almost impossible as a low income person?

I am a mostly vegetarian man who lives on very little income (under \$500) dollars a month. I have found ways to stay healthy while being only marginally dependant on the systems in place through churches and the government. Staying independent is the best thing I find I can do to keep my pride as a young man determined not to encourage my food induced diabetes with sweets or breads and pastas and tainted with preservatives or meat byproducts and meat broths.

Usually, in the soup line if I ask for vegetarian food people either offer non-vegetarian options such as chicken soup or egg containing muffins or say that the organization is only prepared to offer what they are donated. In fact, an ABUNDANCE of vegetarian food is usually available although much of it is thrown out or rots on food bank shelves because it cannot hold up after stores finally let go of the produce.

Why do stores that make so much money by selling people food begrudge the poor for digging in the dumpster or asking for leftovers? I say stores can GIVE AWAY one tenth of produce to the community and prevent waste while even being able to write off the donation or gain the honor of people knowing that food is being shared with those in need by those who profit from selling it to the wealthier patrons and citizens of the world.

Non-Christian churches are generally more responsive to the needs of vegetarians (Sikhs, Krishnas, Buddhists, Hindus all share vegetarian feasts or meals on a regular basis with the public in Victoria as well as Vancouver for instance). So, contact with those religions or spiritualities that emphasize compassion and loving kindness may help ones to find how to access food that don't contain unhealthy or cruel products. Seventh Day Adventists also have a background in healthy eating that they are usually enthusiastic to share with those who genuinely want help.

Other options include:

- 1) **FOOD NOT BOMBS**-serving free vegan meals in various locations regularly to the public (see page 11) www.foodnotbombs.net
- 2) **Farmer's Markets** -leftovers or trades may be available as well as contacts for working to learn about or grow your own food
- 3) **Community Gardens**—often helpful with fresh herbs, salad greens and knowledge on growing and preparing these foods in an urban environment
- 4) **Start or participate in a community kitchen**—community kitchens allow you to participate in cooking and sharing food which cuts costs and allows networking with other low income participants and can often give more direct access to fruits and vegetables
- 5) **Ask for options from existing soup kitchens and food banks**—this may be the most frustrating choice but eventually your hard work may pay off in some whole grains, milk or meat substitutes or fresh fruits and vegetables being added to your plate to reduce your risk of heart disease and cancer and tune up your system
- 6) **Join a food co-op or food buying club**—this will cut costs and put you in touch with more fresh stuff
- 7) **Eat wild foods**—check out local mushroom and wild plant picking options through the library, parks, and non-profit organizations in the community and you will find many keys to a healthy self sufficient diet
- 8)**Combine foods carefully**—check out auyurveda (traditional Indian medicine), macrobiotics and other methods of food combining that may help ones to assimilate or digest the offered food s more easily. I could write a whole article or book just on this if I had time and space.

Lastly, remember that food prepared with LOVE wherever you may find it is the BEST food. SO always give thanks that you can eat and you will notice the food tasting, smelling and going down better.



editor's note **WWOOF!! Willing Workers On Organic Farms** - "The International WWOOF Association is dedicated to helping those who would like to volunteer on organic farms internationally. WWOOF organisations compile a list of organic Host farms that (from time to time) welcome volunteer help. When you join a WWOOF organisation, you will be put in contact with these Host farms. It is then up to you to contact the Host farms that interest you and make your own arrangements with them." www.wwof.org

Written by Allan Green - a wanderer, anti-poverty advocate, compassionate living practitioner, and natural spirit who dwells in the Vancouver Island vicinity. His goals include sustainable ways, self sufficiency, enlivening low income and indigenous communities while sharing nutrition and poverty awareness education. From a background of modern urban and transient homelessness, Allan seeks to link those who desire to be healthy with spiritual, mental, and physical resources to do so. Allan appreciates Thrifty's Food vouchers c/o Cash Plan, 914 Island Hwy, Campbell River, V9W 2C3



Allan at Cathedral Grove

Victoria's New Ethics Buying Club can be found at www.ethicscoop.ca

This page is devoted to our low income and homeless friends in California where severe cuts to social services are imminent.

Thanks to STREET SHEET (A Publication of the Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco) for providing the text and permission to reprint, and to Khalil Gibran for the cartoon.

You can contact STREET SHEET at
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streetsheet@sf-homeless-coalition.org
www.sf-homeless-coalition.org

CALIFORNIA ÜBER ALLES (excerpts)

Disclaimer: My name is Doug Ferrari, I have no porn sites on the Web, so don't even look.

So, how do you like having the Terminator for Gov? I thinks he's done a good job. So far, we haven't been attacked by killer robots from the future.

Why did Arnold want to be Governor anyway? He makes \$30 million a movie, and that's a million dollars a word, isn't it? I know why he's Governor. Every time a little old lady in an Indian casino pulls a lever, Arnold's campaign gets a nickel.

For some reason, knowing that Ahnold met with the Enron boys before the Recall makes me go 'Hmmmmmmmm.' It's like, *Grandma, beware!* They might start turning dials and giving us fake and *really expensive* brownouts again. And, remember that during his campaign, Arnold promised an investigation into his sexual harassment history? (*Do you remember, or is 'California Recall' an oxymoron?*) Then he said he investigated himself. I hope he used both hands, to be fair.

People elected Arnold because in the movies, he's a big hulking hero who protects people. But they didn't elect the Terminator, they elected Schwarzenegger. He's the guy who wants to cut services for housing, education, Medicare, services for the elderly and the disabled, and for animals. What do we need all of that for anyway?

Even with housing so messed up in California, the Gropenator is racking up bills living in exclusive hotels. Is he doing that on purpose, do you think, or is he just completely clueless? Didn't any of those neoCons fill him in on the State's sensitivities? Arnold doesn't understand why anyone's homeless. After all, there are plenty of Marriott Courtyard Hotels.

Remember when he wanted to euthanize animals at the pound after 48 hours instead of seven days? He got so many calls on that one, he had to give the dogs a pardon the very same day. But it gives you an idea about how they decide what gets tossed out of the budget. The team goes into a huddle and figures out who has the biggest mobility problems. Do you think they worry about disabled people and cats hitting the freeways to go protest in Sacramento?

He wants to redistrict California. Gives me flashbacks to Tom Delay's Texas coup. What, will our Democratic congress people have to flee to Ensenada for weeks to avoid getting caught by Homeland Security? Do you know the room rates in Ensenada?

If he asked, I'd just say, let's cut 'er up into three slices. We'll take the coast and the constitution. You can have Orange County and the Rapture. Way up north, well, they're already halfway to Vancouver. They should just run for it.

Arnold wants to make this a 'red' state. Well, he can't touch San Francisco. We're our own little island. We're the only county that didn't vote for him. I say we start building the wall today.

When Arnold was elected, his home town in Austria

was going to build a big Terminator statue in his honor but they've cancelled it because he's for the death penalty. They want to revoke his citizenship. When you're too far to the Right for the birthplace of Hitler, you automatically make the RNC's Top Ten list.

As I write this, Bush is in Europe. The worst thing about knowing Bush is on a 'goodwill tour' is knowing that at some point, he will open his mouth. He's mending fences by attacking Iran, Syria, and Russia. Mr. Diplomacy. Couldn't we send Carter or some body else instead? Bush couldn't be diplomatic if he had the mike in his ear again listening to Karen Hughes whisper one syllable words from a remote location.

This is the guy who picked Cantbeleeve Rice for Secretary Of State and 'Abu Ghraib' Gonzales for Attorney General. Our prisons are already ordering dog leashes. And Michael Chertoff for Homeland Security- the guy who rounded up everybody with a beard after 9/11. They even arrested ZZ Top. J ohn 'Death Squads' Negroponte is going to be our new Intelligence Czar. These Iran/Contra guys keep coming back-we can't get rid of them. Why not Oliver North for Treasury Sec? The End Times must be coming because this is the Cabinet From Hell.

There's been lots of Republican talk about changing the Constitution so Arnold could run for President. That's good news. I didn't know we still had the Constitution. Glad to see it made the cut.

Doug & Beth Ferrari
www.dougzilla.com

Arnold's Budget:
www.cbp.org



Arnold Terminates California's Poor (excerpts)

Every year for the last few years, it has been the same story. The governor (whether Democrat or Republican) proposes his budget in January, depending heavily on cuts to education, welfare, healthcare and childcare, while refusing to consider tax increases on the wealthy or corporations.

This year is no different. Governor Schwarzenegger claims that he hates his own budget, but that he had to make 'hard choices.' However, those choices did not include the consideration of any solution except cutting more deeply into more programs that hurt more people. This year, he has especially targeted families on CalWORKS, including punishing parents who work by cutting their checks.

Of the \$9 billion deficit this year, \$1.1 billion comes from cuts to CalWORKS and SSI/SSP, the largest single cut to any program.

The Governor's proposed cuts in this year's budget include:

- * Eliminating the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for CalWORKS recipients, cutting grant levels by 6.5% and reducing the earned income disregard, for an average cut of \$160/month per family;
- * Permanently repealing the law that gives families on CalWORKS a COLA each year.
- * Suspension of the state and federal COLA for SSI/SSP recipients for a cut of \$32/month for individuals and \$66 for couples;
- * Reductions in benefits and new premiums for Medi-Cal recipients, as well as changes to the Medi-Cal programs that will take effect in future years cutting benefits and services for the aged, blind and disabled and the working poor;

- * Changes to the state child care system which could impact working families' ability to afford and access quality child care services, including time limits for child care assistance, lowering reimbursement rates to providers, and changing income eligibility by basing it upon the federal poverty level.
- * Slashing IHSS wages from \$10.10 per hour to \$6.75 per hour (minimum wage). IHSS workers help the most disabled remain in their homes by performing chores and assisting with the person's basic needs.

The Governor's budget came out in January. That does not mean it is a done deal! There will be hearings in the state legislature throughout March and April. In May, the Governor will introduce his 'May Revise,' which changes his budget proposal based on the revenue from taxes that have come in, and the political pressure he's been getting. The budget has to be passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. The budget is supposed to be passed by the end of June, but in 17 of the last 22 years, it has dragged on through July or even August. That just gives us more time to make our voices heard.

For more information about how to get involved, please contact our Northern California Organizer, Rochelle Robinson, at: rrobinson@communitychange.org or call 510-292-6941.

We can beat these cuts but we need your help! Please join us!

Rebecca Vilkomerson is the Project Director of the California Partnership, a coalition of over 100 community-based organizations fighting poverty in California.

* CRYSTAL CLEAR *

Creative Approaches & Crystal Meth in the City of Gardens

*"Street life's not easy,
street life's not cool,
we'd rather be working or going to school.
No one should be put through,
this misery and pain,
to sleep on the streets in both sun and rain.
We should all have families,
to help us all out,
to be there to guide us when we are in doubt.
So someone please help out,
someone please care,
cause we need to know,
that somebody's there."*

Contributed anonymously to the YM-YWCA "Crystal Meth Zine" by an addicted youth in Victoria.

Jib, crank, sketch, gak, ice, crystal.....call it what you want, it's all just another word for hell. Crystal Meth is a cheap, long high that is easier for Victoria's youth to buy than a pack of cigarettes. For the sum of the average teen allowance, you can stay high for hours and hours. Days can pass with no food or sleep and your concerns will be downsized to only one, how do I get more? "It's like oblivion, there's no connection to emotion of any kind," says *Bella, when thinking back to her own experimentation with the drug. "I think it's what a lot of teenagers are looking for, and certainly street kids."

Betty Buruck is a petite, soft spoken woman with a "been there done that" edge. She has long green-tinged dreads that demand your attention and the commitment of a concerned parent. "Sometimes I'm worried this [meth] is going to be way too cool," she says. Buruck is a Street Youth Outreach Worker. She is one of a small but diligent team who cruise the downtown core like a knight in graffitied armour. Buruck speaks openly and honestly about the youth who comprise the street scene in Victoria and what she sees on a daily basis from her seat in the YM-YWCA Street Outreach van. "The scene has changed," she states sadly.

At first impression, Travis Letondre looks like the kind of guy you'd want working with you as opposed to against you. His stature and tattoos do not disguise his caring nature though and your second impression is one of a guy who'd go the distance for what he believes in. As a fellow Street Youth Outreach worker, he stresses Buruck's words by saying, "It [meth] hit Victoria like a sledge hammer, no one knew how hard it was going to hit. It changed street camaraderie. You used to be able to trust the guy next to you, now it's a different world 'cause meth users don't relate to anyone."

Buruck states matter of factly, that the preferred drugs of summers past, such as cocaine and heroin, are "old fashioned." The majority of kids she sees on the streets are in fact, addicted to meth. She estimates that the average age of a new user is 15; however she encounters kids as young as 13 living on the streets of Victoria.

The drug is much older than this. Methamphetamines have been around for a hundred years. Throughout history, speed has had its not-so glamorous moments in the spotlight. Time has allowed the drug to evolve and two separate factors are allowing for it to once again rear its ugly head. The first factor in the resurgence is the Internet. It has made supplies, information and meth recipes readily available. The second factor is that meth is now smokable. You may not need to stick your body with a needle these days to get super high but you should not be fooled. Meth, even when smoked, is highly addictive and it only takes a handful of times before you are hooked.

The drug's appeal to youth stems further than the cheap price and availability. It completely deters all cravings for food, which makes it especially alluring to young weight-conscious women. The loss of desire to eat has also proven to be an obstacle for the outreach team. The offering of food from the back of the Y van has always been good leverage. Trust is often an issue amongst the street population and food was the one thing that connected their circumstance with solution. "Food was our bait, a way to connect with them; now with crystal meth, the kids don't eat," says an exasperated Buruck. They needed a new way to reach them.

Meth users are compulsive in the sense that they feel the need to do something. The drug causes obsessiveness and common scenarios include cleaning, or creating with meticulous detail. They will "tech out" for hours. Dr. Doug McGhee is a local GP who learned the ropes of street medicine by taking his expertise to a place few doctors are willing to go, the front lines. In the waiting room at the youth clinic, he placed slips of paper with one sentence written on them: "What do you want to say about jib?" The question provoked many answers but few had anything good to say about the drug that enslaved them. "Stare at the wall as you're starting to fall cause you flew too close to the



sun. Spiral and spin and withdraw to within and keep telling yourself this is fun." It is signed, "by Exile". Another patient simply wrote, "Stick to weed."

The idea was adopted by the outreach workers and a notice calling for contributions of art and writings was posted in the outreach van. Suddenly there was another reason for meth addicts to come to the vehicle. More importantly, it was opening up the lines of communication and establishing trust.

Designing a zine was a creative solution that had no funding. The idea however, overshadowed the lack of resources. It was important that the end result be a true interpretation of crystal life on the street in the words of the user. It would also allow the Y team to incorporate sound advice on harm reduction, "without sounding too preachy," says Buruck.

The zine was produced with a photocopier and what it lacks in polish it makes up in content. The message is there, loud and clear and although it is just "too preachy" to admit aloud, the zine resonates the message by the addicts themselves; "Just say NO!"

The end result is a hard-edged testament to the harsh reality of addiction. It does not glorify nor shame. It gives pride back to the contributors and a sense of accomplishment. "One kid, who I'd never talked to before, ran right up to the van and asked for a copy when he heard it was out," says Buruck enthusiastically. With a successful first issue to their credit, the zine team hopes to produce another.

The Victoria YM-YWCA is currently awaiting funding for a program which will be specifically designed around the needs of those addicted to crystal meth. Included in their proposal for funding is an allowance to produce a zine in which the youth can have a more hands-on approach.

Meth addiction is a very real problem in Victoria. As meth hit the West Coast first, it would only make sense that we be the first to establish awareness, harm reduction and treatment programs for addicts. The need for options is not one just deemed appropriate by the social community, it is one that resounds within the street community. Letondre sums it up by saying, "It's been a year and the first wave [of meth users] is now at a point where they want to quit. That first love is over."

The Y's solutions sit idle as they await word of funding; all the while, the popularity of the drug escalates. For some their first love has become an abusive relationship, but for others, the affair has only just begun.

** name has been changed upon request*

To contact the Outreach Team, please call 888-4728

Story and photo by Kelly Heggart

Kelly is 30 something, originally from Ontario. Her father, a great photographer, influenced her decision to pursue a career in professional photography and journalism, and she's currently attending full-time at the Western Academy of Photography.

Kelly invites comments and feedback at sittingpretty@telus.net

"I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around [the banks] will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered. The issuing power should be taken from the banks and restored to the people, to whom it properly belongs."

*Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826
Author of the Declaration of Independence
& 3rd President of the United States*

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Information and Advocacy
418 - 620 View Street 382-3012

NEW AMERICAN CENTURY

"An educational organization supporting American global military, diplomatic, and moral leadership."

www.newamericancentury.org

community calendar

	<i>Street Newz offers no guarantees that following information is accurate, or that the events will actually occur. events@pej.org</i>		
Mondays	Movie Monday	by donation	595-FLIC or www.islandnet.com/mm
Alt Mondays	Victoria Peace Coalition - dolcla@islandnet.com		
Alt. Mondays	Communities Solidarity Coalition - www.communities-solidarity.org, info@communities-solidarity.org (June 13, 27; July 11, 25)		
Tuesdays	THE MILK JUG ernauts - (250) 479-3374 - spiltmilk@centralmail.com - www.spiltmilkcomedy.com		
Tuesdays	Ongoing meditation group awakening, planetary healing, transformation. 7:30-9 pm. Info: 598-4303, celestialleo@hotmail.com.		
Tuesdays	Victoria Bluegrass Association Jams 1620 Fernwood, Orange Hall, 7:30 pm 472-6483 free for listeners, \$2 for play ers - all levels		
Tuesdays	Hand Drumming Drop-in, \$10, James Bay New Horizons, Centre, 234 Menzies. Beginners 7 to 8 pm, Advanced 8:15 to 9 pm Info call 386-1054		
Wednesdays	Falun Gong. faluninfo.net. Fernwood Community Association, 1923 Fernwood. Victoria. 5-7 p.m. Info: (250)386-8805 .		
Wednesdays	Peace Vigils at the Legislature- 7:00 - 8:00 pm - Everyone Welcome!		
Wednesdays	SOLID (Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers) except welfare day , 7:00-9:00 pm, 1947 Cook St. \$3 bus fare reimbursed		
Wednesdays	Qi Gong in Beacon Hill Park, across fm Petting Zoo, across foot bridge near weeping willow & park bench. 7-8 am No Charge. Beginners Welcome		
Fridays	Coffeehouse discussion group 7:30 pm JJ's coffeehouse in Brentwood Bay 7:30 pm Info: sue_stroud@hotmail.com		
Fourth Fridays	Café Simpatico , Activist coffeehouse,1923 Fernwood. Doors at 7 pm. casc@telus.net , 598-7690, communitypipe.org		
Saturdays	Plastic Recycling - Accepting soft & hard plastics: styrofoam blocks & chips, plastic bags, and rigid plastics. Info: 382-4604.		
Last Sundays	Spilt Milk Family Fun Series - children's comic improv. Info: (250) 479-3374, spiltmilk@centralmail.com, www.spiltmilkcomedy.com		
Alt. Sundays	Sierra Club Nature Outings - Call Nikko for more details at 386-5255 x241, www.sierraclub.ca/bc		
Sundays	Victoria Folk Music Society 7:30pm , Norway House, 1110 Hillside www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms or 413-3213, 24 hrs.		
Monthly	Faith in Action -a multi-faith coalition to put more heart into BC's income assistance. www.bcfaithinaction.ca		
July and August	Nightly Lantern Tours in the Old Burying Ground 8:30, Christ Church Cathedral, 911 Quadra, www.oldcem.bc.ca		
to June 4th	Art Exhibit: Michael Abraham- The Other Side. Exhibit at gallery jones, 1725 W 3rd Ave, Van. michaelabraham.com		
June 1st	Rally & Celebration to Protect Endangered Forests 500 forest execs fm 27 countries in Van. June 1-3 Info: katewoznnow@yahoo.com or omi@riseup.net		
June 1 & 2, 9th	Canadian Pollution Prevention Roundtable (CPPR) www.c2p2online.com/CPPR		
June 2-5th	Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE), - celebrating local living economies Vancouver www.ballebc.com		
June 2nd	Lands & People Festival, PT Young Recital Hall, University of Victoria, 7 pm, 250-882-9930 whorter@dogwoodinitiative.org		
June 3-11th	Uno Festival www.intrepidtheatre.com		
June 4th	VIVA (Van Island Veg Assoc.) kids outdoor potluck at Mount Doug Park , Noon-2pm Info: lexi7@telus.net, www.islandveg.com		
June 4th	Women of Note - women's choir, 7 pm, St. Matthias Church Hall, 600 Richmond Rd (at Richardson) \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and students. Info 370-5058		
June 4th	VIV A movie potluck for kids and adult kids. RSVP to veg@morethansolutions.com and for directions. 3pm-7pm www.islandveg.com		
June 4th & 5th	BC Sustainable Energy Association exhibition of sustainable energy technologies at the Royal BC Museum, 9-5, www.bcsea.org		
June 5-July 3rd	Pride 2005 http://victoriapridesociety.org info@victoriapridesociety.org		
June 5-10th	Deep Ecology Workshop "Earth, Spirit, Action" Hollyhock, BC on Cortez Island www.hollyhock.ca contact julia@hollyhock.ca		
June 7th	100% Woman 7pm, Tuesday, June 7th, (Doors at 5.00), Hermann's Jazz Club, 753 View www.100percentwoman.com		
June 9-11th	North by Northeast Music Fest & Conference Info: www.nxne.com, www.sonicbids.com, festival@nxne.com.		
June 10-12	Festival of Peace		
June 11th	Small-Space Garden-Compost Club Lecture 2-4pm; Memb free; Non \$10 Pre-reg: 386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca		
June 10-12th	A Hundred Years of Wobblies - 37th annual labour history conference, SFU Harbour Centre, Vancouver, BC www.pnlha.org		
June 12th	Victoria Secular Humanists Dr. Barry Beyerstein, a Critique of the new Ageism, Swan's, 506 Pandora, 10:30 am Free. 881-4849		
June 11th	Oak Bay Garagellennium - a plethora of garage/yard sales throughout Oak Bay 9am - noon.		
June 15th	Public Lecture: Artful Leadership in Changing Times 12:30 -2:30 pm Harry Hickman Bldg, UVic, 721-8199, dispute.resolution.uvic.ca/		
June 16-24th	Workshops in Clayoquot Sound Info: www.thunder-island.net. www.bonmedicine.com www.essential-life.com		
June 17th	Pot-luck for those concerned about the 'Right to Sleep' St. Savior's, www.angelfire.com/apes/hatrackman/welcome.htm, loveandfearlessness.com		
June 17th	VIVA (Van Island Veg Assoc) Potluck at Beacon Hill Park. Info: lexi7@telus.net, www.islandveg.com		
June 17-19th	5th Annual Sooke River Bluegrass Festival 2259 Phillips Rd. www.sookebluegrass.com		
June 17th	SHASHIN: Japanese Canadian Studio Photography to 1942 Maltwood Museum & Art Gallery, UVic		
June 18th	Controlling Problem Weeds Workshop 2-4pm Members, \$9; Non-members, \$10 Pre-register: 386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca		
June 24-July 3rd	Jazzfest International www.vicjazz.bc.ca		
June 26th	UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture , theatre & workshop, ICA, 930 Balmoral Road, 5:30 and 7:30 PM. Info: amoreno@icavictoria.org		
June 26-July 3rd	Medieval Village at Fort Rodd Hill Anachronists campout and lifestyle presentations www.pc.gc.ca/fortroddhill, 478-5849		
July 1-10th	ICA Folkfest Victoria Inner Harbour www.icafolkfest.com, folkfest@icavictoria.org, 388-4728 ext 117		
July 2nd	Composting Basics - Workshop Free Pre-register: 386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca		
July 2-13th	Summer Music Academy Concerts Vic Conservatory of Music, 907 Pandora, www.vcm.bc.ca, 386-5211		
July 3rd	Chris Chandler brings his outrageous spoken word stylings to the VFMS, 7:30 Norway House 1110 Hillside www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms or 413-3213		
July 3rd-6th	Canadian Youth Climate Change Conference (YC3), Royal Roads University, Victoria, British Columbia, www.yc3.net, info@yc3.net, (250) 358-2303		
July 3-24th	Cathedral Festival Days St. Ann's Academy, 835 Humboldt www.cathedralfestival.net		
July 9th	Seed Saving - Compost Club Lecture 2pm-4pm Members, free; Non-members, \$10 Pre-register: 386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca		
July 9-16th	Delegation-Seminar to Guatemala Info: Grahame Russell, 416-654-2074, info@rightsaction.org, www.rightsaction.org		
July 14-Aug 14th	Shakespeare in the Summer Camosun Lansdowne Campus A Midsummer Night's Dream and Cymbeline www.victoriashakespearesociety.com		
July 15-17th	Vancouver Folk Music Festival Jericho Beach Park, Vancouver Info: 604.602.9798 or www.thefestival.bc.ca Early Bird Tickets to June 18		
July 16th	Moss St. Paint-In 12:30-4:30, Moss St. www.aggv.bc.ca		
July 16 & 17th	Permaculture Workshop 10am-5pm Members, \$90; Non-members, \$100. Pre-register: 386-WORM, info@compost.bc.ca, www.compost.bc.ca		
June 19th	Father's Day Ceilidh in the Park with Daniel Lapp and the BC Fiddle Orchestra 2pm, Cameron Bandshell. 361-0358		
July 22-24th	20th Annual Island Folk Festival Providence Farm, Duncan 250-748-3975, tickets 250-748-7529, www.folkfest.bc.ca		
July 23rd	Luminara Beacon Hill Park www.luminaravictoria.com		
July 23rd	VIVA (Van Island Veggie Assoc) Outdoor potluck at Beacon Hill Park Info: lexi7@telus.net, www.islandveg.com		
July 29th -Aug 1st	The Filberg Festival 2005, arts & crafts, Comox BC, www.filbergfestival.com - info/tix at 250 334 9242		
July 29th-Aug 6th	Latin Caribbean Festival , Market Square Afternoons Free Entry : Evening Performances Ticketed Entry www.vircs.bc.ca/latinfest.html		
July 31st	Symphony Splash Inner Harbour www.symphonysplash.com		
July 31-Aug 21st	13th Che Guevar a Work Brigade in Cuba www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/brigade, che_guevara_brigade@yahoo.com, 604-831-9821 or 204-334-0136		

Sidney Days
June 30-July 3
656-4365

June 21st Summer Solstice
12:46 am MDT

Food Banks and Meals

9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW'S SOUP KITCHEN)
740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week
Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY
973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 382-0283
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 5 pm, Weds, Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am- 4pm
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
4-697 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V9B 2X2 phone: 474-4443
Tues, Weds: 10am – 3pm, Closed last week of month

FOOD NOT BOMBS - a collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 383-5144, ext 1940
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)
Bring clean plastic containers for bowls, bags for produce. <http://resist.ca/~fnb-victoria>

FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH
Esquimalt United Church Hall, Lyall St., just past Admirals Rd.
Tuesdays and Thursdays - 12 noon – 1:15 pm

FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX
C/o Blanshard Community Centre phone: 388-7696
James Bay Community Project phone: 388-7844
WorkLink Employment Society phone: 478-9525
Victoria Native Friendship Centre phone: 384-3211
Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 389-1470
-Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - \$5.75
-Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other mth, usually \$4 & \$2 /12 & under.
Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance
-Community school cafe open Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. \$3.25 & child 2.75.

MEALS ON WHEELS
9751-3rd st. Sidney, B.C., V8L 3A5 phone: 655-9222
For residents of Greater Victoria who, because of age, disability or illness, are unable to prepare an adequate meal for themselves, have inadequate cooking facilities, have no one to prepare meals, or have health and social needs. Referrals from doctors, health & Social Services agencies, concerned friends, family, or personal requests.
Current cost of meals- \$6.00. In addition to nutritional benefits, some social interaction.

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCHwww.mustardseed.ca
625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 phone: 953-1575
Outreach: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Food bank: M,T, W, Th 9-11:45am, 12:30-2:00 pm
M, W, F - Family Hampers, Th - Singles & Couples w/out children.
Food bank is closed the week following welfare cheque day. Drop in for food, friendship, counseling, and crisis intervention. Food hampers available. One visit/mth.

OPEN DOOR SOCIETY
935 Pandora St, Victoria B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 385-2454
Mon-Fri: 10am-12pm, 2-4pm, Sat&Sun: 8am-12pm, 1-3:30 pm. Free sandwiches, doughnuts, coffee, tea, bread, sometimes produce, clothing room, games room, counseling & referrals.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
828 View Street, Victoria B.C. V8W 1K2 phone: 382-0712
9 am–12:30 pm, 1:30 pm–4:30 pm Mon–Friday, Tues aft for Women
Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services.
Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

SAINT SAVIOUR'S KITCHEN
310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 384-8773
Rainbow Kitchen for women and children, Weds and Fris, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

SALVATION ARMY, Family Services and Counselling (singles, too)
2695 Quadra, at Hillside ph: 386-8521 Monday – Friday, 9 am – 3:30 pm
Emergency food hampers, clothing & small housewares vouchers.

SIKH TEMPLE
Blackwood at Topaz (towards summit park), enter right side door
Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER
1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 ph: 384-3634, office 383-1951
Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 383 7169.
Food bank open Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Friday and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)

UPPER ROOM SOCIETY
919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 388-7112
Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am–4pm Meals: Mon-Sat 12-1pm, 4–5:30 pm
Meal pass costs \$26 a month, or \$1 at the door.

Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - *where healthy eating is an act of community.* 250-746-4204, www.providence.bc.ca, mlthomson@uniserve.com

First Metropolitan roast beef dinner - Friday before Welfare Wednesday, 5 pm

Central Baptist’s Breakfast Club

First Saturday: Christ Church Cathedral, 912 Vancouver St., 7:45-9:30 am
coffee, tea, orange juice, eggs & hash browns, also ham

Second Saturday: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes , eggs, ham

Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786
coffee, tea, pancakes, eggs, sausage

Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Worker's' Union at St. Andrew's Hall, 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

Housing Resources

No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay

Salvation Army 525 Johnson Street, 384-3396 Emerg men only

Streetlink 1634 Store Street, 383-1951

Sandy Merriman House 809 Burdett Avenue, 480-1408

Sobering and Assessment Centre 1125 Pembroke (at Cook)
213-4444 24 hr max for people under the influence of substances

Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 889-1490 Oct - April, various locations

Kiwanis Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 386-8282

Hill House Women with children 479-3963

Sooke Transition House 642-2591 Women with or without children

Vic. Women’s Transition House 385-6611 Women with or w/out kids

Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 386-7291 Women & kids

Kiwanis House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 382-1004

Margaret Laurence House 995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

Low Cost Monthly Rentals

YWCA Women’s Residence- 880 Courtney Street, 386-7511
Room \$425/month, stay limited to 3- month max

Ritz Hotel- 710 Fort Street, Room \$340- 370/month 381-1868

Fairfield Hotel 710 Cormorant St., Room \$340-370/mth 386-1621

York Hotel 711 Johnson Street, Room \$395/month 385-2544

Douglas Hotel 1450 Douglas Street, Rm without bath \$475
383-4157 (Mid September – end May only)

Ocean Island Backpackers 791 Pandora Avenue Rooms (some with bath)
385-1788 From \$250-490 (Oct - end of May)

Turtle Refuge Backpackers 1608 Quadra Street 386-4471
** Min. of Human Resources will not issue shelter funds for this **

Vic. Human Exchange Soc. 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366,www.humanx.org.

Subsidized Housing Contact List

BC Housing 301- 3440 Douglas Street, 475-7550 www.bchousing.org

Burnside Gorge Community Association 388-5251

Cap. Region Housing 623 Fisgard, 388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing

Coordinated Housing Registry 1410 Broad Street 356-2548

M’Akola Housing Society 384-1423

Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc 830 E Pembroke St. 385-2131

Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 380-2663

St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services/

Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society #501-620 View, 384-3434

Housing Searches on the Internet

BC Housing Subsidized Housing List www.bchousing.org/Housing

Brown Bros. Property Management www.brownbros.com

BC Co-Operative Housing www.chf.bc.ca/

Camosun Off Campus Housing List www.ccss.camosun.bc.ca

David Burr Property Management www.davidburr.com/

UVic Off Campus Housing www.housing.uvic.ca/offcampus/search.htm

Some places to call for help

Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 228-1250 Quadra, 387-5077

AIDS Vancouver Island: 1601 Blanshard St., 384-2366

Alano Club: 1402 Broad St, 383-9151

Alcoholics Anon: #8, 2020 Douglas, 383-7744 (help), 383-0415 (off)

Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 385-1466

Cool-Aid Phone Message Service (\$5/mth): 383-1977

Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men: 480-1342

Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 480-1232

Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 595-8619

Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 384-3396

Soc. of Living Intravenous Drugusers: 7-9 pm Wednesdays, 1947 Cook

Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #415 - 620 View Street 361-3521

Substance Information LINK: www.silink.ca

Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 610 Johnson Street, 384-3211

Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 213-4444

Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecelia, 480-1342

Burnside Gorge Community Association Housing Outreach

Our services include advocacy, housing support, life skills development and program referral. We create weekly housing lists compiled from the newspaper and various other housing resources.

Phone: (250) 388-5271

Bodhi’s Path ... a serial ... episode V



Robert Lightheart Jones is a universalist Friend who explores the many ways beings express the great dance of life of which we are but a small part. He's recently settled into what he hopes is a new home (subsidized housing on the edge of the 'burbs). Robert invites reaction and storyline suggestions c/o streetnewz@islandnet.com.

(The famous Zip & Nougatine saga: On the coming of Nougatine to the Euphoric Vapour Emporium wherein she relates the cunning stunts of her youth.)

Nougatine Magrath had her abundant hennaed hair tied up in several sculpturally pleasing hanks but somewhat strangely at odds with her artistic intent. Samples of her arts hung from her clothing (fierce and menacing ceramic dragonflies too chunky to ever attain flight were tied into bright bandanas), her clothing tended to pinks with tiger striped tights. Her shoes were beat up army combat boots tied with flourescent slime green. Out of this shone the smiling innocence of her face. Bodhi had found her in the park sleeping under the big willow tree. Maybe it would be more accurate to say that TLC had brought her home as she was holding him upside down clutched to her breast like a baby. Bodhi was impressed by his taste in people. Not wishing to steal TLC’s thunder, he followed and as they were near the house he called to her.

"Oh, thank you for bringing him home," he said. "He's been hiding out ever since some reno work started on his home (we're doing track lighting). He does have great taste in humans and I've learned to trust his instincts. He invites lots of his friends to dinner and we'd be honoured if you would accept his invitation. He's chosen Seafood Chef's Surprise, but we're having a stir-fry. I've just been down to a Chinese market and only need papaya to fill out the tofu marinade. Are you game? There will be six of us (not counting TLC who is languishing in your arms). Well this is us...the A frame. My name's Bodhi...You're?" "Nougatine (not my choice, my granddad said I was sweet as candy, it stuck.)

Albert, Freyja, Georgia, Zip, Himself and now Nougatine. Well, he sincerely hoped Zip had found the grandmother of dumpsters. As it turned out, Frejya had found a special on tiger prawns and she had made a very special dish. Georgia did a fried rice thing with a strange but delicious fruit curry. Zip had come home with lots of bananas which were added to Georgia's dish. I did a Szechuan seasoned veggie stir-fry to complete a many coursed meal to cause all of us to loosen our belts.

Nougatine kept us laughing about the family she was raised in. They had gone back to the land in a commune in the interior of BC. She was a goat herder (she loved every one of them dearly),home schooled (loved to read but left finances to trusted friends). As a kid, she had twin half sisters called Leafy and Miracle and a brother Rama. Amidst the dirt and goat droppings Rama had kept his immaculate self, pedicured , manicured, his golden hair perfectly coiffed and his shorts clean and

crisp looking. Nougatine ,of course, found him an insufferable prig. He had grown up to be a tax accountant who cross-dressed.

Leafy and Miracle had a bump and grind sister act in bars all up and down the West coast ending up in LA night clubs backing the less talented has been actors and singers doing come backs. They were spectacularly tall and slender and could have been super models but for the fact that they both had very wet lips and tended to sneeze around feathers. Needless to say this limited the scope of their costumed appearances to synthetics, but everything has its compensations.As the spandex craze took hold the Magrath twins were in full fettle. They were mentioned in one of Blossom's letters. Tiger Lil had almost broken up with her after a wild night with the twins. She was alone with her baby son, Thor, for two weeks before Lil returned. Nougatine added that story to her store of great stories about her family.

Albert had never opened up to anyone like the lubrication of that evening supplied. He was thankful for “the second chance at happiness the people around the table were giving him ...” He told a story about high school when it was assumed he would be a basket ball star because of his size but he was too slow and after a season of bench warming he was hooted off the team. He had begun pre-med but run out of money, and ended up in his current ‘mc-job’ which had turned sour but he couldn’t come up with a viable alternative. His body was slowly breaking down from backand neck pain.

Nougatine had him stretch out on the living room floor and went to work on him. With a few deft pulls and twists she put his neck back into balance. She'd learned it from her grand father who was an old retired chiropractor. She talked the whole time non-stop. Albert was dubious but when he slowly rose to his full height he raised his arms over his head experimentally and to his surprise and delight he was loosened, for the first time in years.

The evening ended with a surprise. Albert told everyone to sit tight. He'd be down in a minute. With that he bounded up the stairs two at a time. He returned five minutes later dressed in the flashiest turquoise cowboy suit sequined with an Ace of Spades playing card on the back, the like of which we'd ever seen before. He had a big Dobro steel guitar and sang to them all. His voice was the purest bass baritone singing traditional western songs like ‘Tumbling Tumble Weeds,’ ‘Streets of Laredo,’ and ‘St James Infirmary.’ (He was able to show that the last two were the same tune i.e. Major/Minor mirrors to each other).

Apparantly our friend lead a secret life as a vocalist since high school but never appeared in local clubs, only in strange out of the way border bars. We vowed to get him out of the dark smoky bars and onto a CD before too long or his voice would be past its rich fullness. Now there was a serious house project which would require all the networking resources and skills the house had to offer. Bodhi got out his digital camera and took a number of stills to start on posters and CD liner shots. Georgia and Freyja said they would call in some favours. By the end of the evening there was a magic like never before. (to be continued)

Society of Living Intravenous Drug Users - SOLID story written by Janine

Bob McGillivray is a founding members of SOLID, a registered not-for-profit society in Victoria, established about three years ago to “ help users have a voice, some sort of network, support for one another.” Carol Romanow was also there from near the beginning. Now there are about 150 members, Bob explains, and 10% of those are active at any one time.

I've known Carol for many years, as a social justice activist working on behalf of people with disabilities, and I learned about SOLID over coffee one afternoon.

SOLID fulfills its mission through its weekly meetings which are both educational and social. Folks are provided w ith bus fare and an opportunity to watch videos like *FIX* and *Hide and Go Homeless*. Sometimes SOLID board representatives attend Conferences and Forums about Hep C or AIDS and shares their learnings with the group. Meetings might offer peer to peer counseling, or guest speakers. Mostly it’s about harm reduction, having a place to go without being judged.

Whenever possible, SOLID also offers some food and/or tobacco to whoever shows up at the weekly gatherings. “We all live in poverty, we’re all poor, Carol explains, “we’re hanging on by the seat of our pants... people say we shouldn’t be giving tobacco, but people have the right to dignity and if you can give them some dignity by helping them get enough tobacco and their own papers to not pick butts for tw o hours, that's something.”

As the conversation turns to causes of addiction, I ask about the criminalization of drugs. “Making it illegal only activates and stimulates the criminal aspect. Legalizing it would remove the criminal aspect,” Bob suggests.

We talked about how drugs can help a person either escape or enhance life’s

experiences, about the connection between drug use and poverty. Carol spoke about “groups of aboriginals who do peyote as a religious experience, and it is exempted under the drug laws for aboriginal people under that church structure. But it's not done on a continuous basis, it's not done every day or 3 or 4 times a day, it's done during specific times, it's very different, and done in a particular setting, and there are people who are not doing peyote so they can make sure that everybody's alright. It's totally different than a bunch of people shooting drugs, smoking jib, it's a whole different thing. It's like somebody sitting in a lounge having rye and 7 as opposed to somebody sitting on a curb drinking rubbing alcohol - but in reality the alcohol is still alcohol.”

The work of SOLID goes on day by day, largely unnoticed except by those whose lives truly depend on it. Perhaps now that Richard Stanwick and Alan Lowe have witnessed the alternative approach offered in some European nations, now that the public has attended some town hall meetings, now that many are willing to admit Victoria has become a big city with big city problems, perhaps now there will be some recognition and support for the work of SOLID.

In Vancouver, Carol explains, there are three support groups funded by the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board. “Because they’re funded they have the ability to have office space, they have the ability to put together presentations, they have the ability to do some printing, they have the ability to do alley patrol and clean up rigs for instance, where they can give people enabling funds or pay them a small amount of money each month. We haven’t got that.” Aside from a small amount the City provided, SOLID is essentially unfounded. What about VIHA, I ask, the Vancouver Island Health Authority? “There's no way they can give us funding.” Carol explains, that’s not what they’re about.”

On Sundays Carol's van is a focal point for those seeking clean needles. In addition to its weekly meetings, SOLID provides a needle exchange when the other one is closed. “The city knows and the police chief knows, it’s not a problem,” Carol says. “I drive the van, I give out rigs, for harm reduction. Bob’s the chemist.”

Bob has studied university level chemistry, he knows the difference between stimulants and depressants, the varying strengths of opiates, and the psychological effects of different drugs. “When you’re addicted to drugs everything else in your life is put on the back burner, and then when you come off of drugs all these things that were on the back burner slide forward and you’re overwhelmed by all the things you have to do and it makes it seem impossible and you have no escape because you don’t have that drug anymore and so it can be self-defeating and you end up back using drugs again because you were more comfortable and you had that escape,” he explains.

(continued on page 16)



TOWARD A NEW VISION FOR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION (conclusion)

Released October 5 2004, by Dr. Elinor Powell - www.heartofconflict.com
for the Faith in Action Coalition - www.bcfaithinaction.ca



REDESIGNING OUR SOCIAL ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION

We now turn to what may be done to redress the present legislative approach toward providing appropriate and adequate social security.

A gauge of what we can do for the poorest and most needy among our populations is best discovered by stepping into their shoes. How would we like to be treated, were we to experience poverty, or need to live permanently apart from an abusive spouse or to be cut off from previous social connections? Or even to have made some unfortunate choice - which we have all done and regret at some time in our lives - that has left us out in the cold, literally? First let us re-define a vision and mission in keeping with the values expressed in this paper.

Suggested Vision statement:

The Ministry of Human Resources will be known for its helpfulness for people in poverty through supportive evaluation of their circumstances and for their potential toward becoming productive members of society and through providing basic ongoing maintenance for those where achieving stability is more realistic than restoration.

Suggested Mission Statements:

- * To provide a courteous and respectful reception to those seeking social assistance.
- * To provide professional services to assess the circumstances, needs and capabilities of those seeking social assistance; to work with clients to design with them plans for re-integration into the community.
- * To encourage each client to take the initiative in making decisions and choices as to his or her goals and how to achieve them.
- * To make available basic assistance in money and resources for living and for developing clients' potential through education, counseling, assistance in career planning and training, budgeting, child care and other life-skills.
- * To provide assessment and ongoing stabilization and support for those who are unable to recover from their present situation due to health or other disability.
- * To incorporate principles of "innocent until proven guilty" as well as respect for privacy and dignity into any anti-fraud investigations.
- * To provide a third-party review system to monitor the fairness and effectiveness of legislated measures to relieve poverty.

Objectives

- Programs designed to raise people from poverty will provide an ethical framework that will seek in general to:
- * Enhance social interconnections with supportive, well motivated people
 - * Enhance equality between men and women
 - * Reduce regional inequities which recognizing regional special needs
 - * Provide access to life-skill training and job readiness training that is suited to their current abilities and to the jobs for which they are most suited and which have openings.
 - * Provide access to health care and basic food requirements, especially for pregnant mothers and young children.
 - * Provide access to housing and healthy and secure environments free of violence
 - * Provide access to services that enables parents to fulfill their responsibilities to their children with emphasis on full time care for children under school age,
 - * Provide programs either directly or though funded agencies to enable people to realize their full potential and be full citizens at every stage of their lives, to the extent possible.
 - * Provide effective boundaries and put in place penalties that are just and graded to the gravity of the fault. Penalties to be no greater than those imposed for similar amounts of default on citizens who are not receiving social assistance. The penalties imposed to consider the individual circumstances of the violator, reflecting a compassionate approach. For instance, there should be no life-time ban for those found guilty of welfare fraud.
 - * Provide an evaluation process to ensure that the services provided are used with probity on the part of the Ministry.

Values:

The Ministry of Human Resources will take renewed pride in the services it offers in building an infrastructure of care, support, justice and compassion for those unable to help themselves, as an intrinsic and essential asset to the communities of British Columbia.

Strategies.

Present regulations which defer access, require previous independence, cut off assistance by arbitrarily setting time limits, claw back initial earnings and force mothers to seek work when their youngest child reaches 3 years, and other edicts

which forbid necessary support, to be rescinded.

The assessment and care of those seeking the support of the state to be placed in the hands of skilled professionals who are qualified to diagnose, assess and meet those needs.

What is needed is a structure that allows trained front-line staff to use their expertise in the interests of their clients, in a way that reflects their professional expertise and their care for their clients. The Health Ministry has achieved this structure in delivering high quality care. They do not dictate care, but delegate monitoring to professional bodies, such as the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC and the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. Health assessment is carried out by these and other skilled health practitioners who bring years of experience to their task.

Each case is assessed by professionals as to diagnosis, urgency and need, then treated individually, so as to get the level, type and duration of care each requires. The range of services needed varies as to its diagnosis, its immediacy, its severity, its possibility of remediation and the age of its clients.

In the social service area, expensive equipment is not a requirement, but rather a human presence and social support. The assessment of the manifold presentations requires its own unique expertise - and compassion - as do people requiring medical care.

As in the health care field, in matters of the breakdown in the social and economic field, it is inappropriate for government legislators to impose rigid criteria over front-line staff in assessing and managing the needs of marginalized, vulnerable people. Indeed, the [previous] government's course of action has proved an inability to provide for these poor individuals and their families in a restorative manner. A transformation in the service is urgently needed.

Each person seeking assistance to be treated individually, using positive reinforcement techniques, rather than coercion, through empowerment, resilience-building and restoration where remediation is possible, and sustained support and maintenance for those who, of necessity, will remain dependent on community care.

At the first visit, clients to be assessed as to the urgency of their need, similar to the triage system in medical emergency rooms, so that those in dire need can be looked after promptly, and others with the priority their case requires.

Relax the imperative to search for wage - earning employment according to the arbitrary rules imposed by the present Act and Regulations, and monitor the client's progress in a way that is compatible with his or her own abilities and circumstances and the availability of suitable work. Suitable work would include a variety of callings, such as parenting of pre-school children, full-time care of elderly relatives or the disabled, or community services, as well as paid-for employment.

Social assistance to those providing full-time care to elderly or disabled relatives should approximate payment for similar services carried out by a non-relative. Other contributions to the common good, although not necessarily compensated by wages, to be considered, under a spectrum of conditions which can be defined and reviewed by Regulation.

Continue to work with other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Education, Early Childhood Development, Education, Health, and the Ministry of the Attorney General, where their responsibilities overlap with those of the Ministry of Human Resources.

Support and work with community agencies that are helping to relieve poverty by providing services, obtaining justice through legal aid, fostering advocacy groups who make us aware of shortfalls in our safety net, providing shelters and drug-rehabilitation centres.

Negotiate with municipal and federal levels of government to provide adequate funding, and work with them to provide a seamless tapestry of complementary programs to relieve poverty across our blessed country and in every village and city.

Conclusion.

What I am suggesting will cost some extra money because people who at present are prevented from applying or who have been dropped off the rolls will now be eligible. More front-line staffing will also be required. Yet the overall cost of services under the Ministry of Human Resources is minimal in comparison to other Ministries.

The benefits of the new legislation may be seen by a reduction in health care costs, because adequate nutrition and housing prevent many of the illness to which the poor are particularly prone. Benefits will be seen also in a reduction in begging and defacement of our streets, in a reduction in crime, and by the sense of safety, security and community for everyone, to which these measures will contribute. It will be seen also in the renewed hope of those who we are in duty bound to assist in their time of need, lending a helping hand in their fresh endeavours to achieve their greater potential and to contribute as worthy members of society.



ASK MARGARET DRYSDALE

My heart is heavy with sadness since my beloved companion and namesake has passed to doggie heaven, or somewhere like that. No longer am I at her every beck and call, continuously fetching her chewy sticks or biscuits, stroking her delicate ears and ego.

These are sad days indeed, not even I can muster the strength and determination required to maintain my own personal status quo. It is hoped, however, that I shall soon rescue my heart and soul from the depths of the forest of despair, and again provide the gossip and insight necessary to counterbalance the leftist tripe this inconceivably dull rag offers up every two months.

Sincerely, Margaret

Victoria Street Newz

... on the streets where you live ...

YouthLines: A Magazine and Website for Youth, By Youth, About Youth

The launch of a new youth magazine in Victoria is developing fast!

The NEED Crisis & Information Line's YouthLines project, an in-print and online magazine for and by youth is currently putting out a call out for submissions for anyone between the ages of 13 and 20.

The magazine is aiming to give youth a voice in Victoria, to raise awareness and gain better understanding of the issues facing youth in our community, as well as providing a safe space for youth's voices to be available.

The new website, YouthLines.ca will be up and running by the end of June. If you are interested in getting involved call Katie at 386-6328 ext.236 or email me at kshaw@needcrisis.bc.ca. Every youth involved will be paired with a mentor in who is working now in their field of interest.

YouthLines will be available June 30th

Written by K Shaw



Patten and JB fix their bikes and guitar outside the Open Door

The **Community Social Planning Council** released another Community Reconstruction Report, this one titled *The Caring Community: Accounting for the Impacts of Provincial Government Changes.*

Its findings show that "Boards of Directors, volunteers and staff of community agencies are deeply committed to providing effective support to the people whom they are mandated to serve.

The past three years have been very difficult. The demand for services has increased and become more complex. The capacity of the agencies to fulfill their mandates has been reduced.

In order to move forward, community agencies look forward to working more collaboratively with government to rebuild the community's capacity to care."

For more information: 1144 Fort Street, Victoria BC, V8V 3K8 phone: (250) 383-6166 email: info@communitycouncil.ca www.communitycouncil.ca

The **Burnside Gorge Community Association** publishes a monthly *Housing Outreach Chronicle*, focussed on homelessness and family violence. "We hope that it will provide insight for you into the many issues homeless families face in our region."

The Burnside Gorge Community Association's Homeless Families Outreach Program support parents and their children experiencing homelessness and housing crises in the Capital Region. We find that families struggling with housing crises come from all parts of the region and we strive to create awareness about this issue across our community.

For more information: Erin Davis, BSW, Housing Outreach Worker, Burnside Gorge Community Association, 484 Cecelia Road, Victoria, BC V8T 4T5, Phone: 250-388-5271



Kay Dixon, born Katarzyna Skibicka, is 94 years young. She's from Ukrainian-Polish parentage and recalls that her mother died, worn out from manual labour, at 35. Kay helped raise her 4 siblings, went to 'normal' school, and taught in the public school system for many years. Kay was the 7th teacher at George Jay School.

Nowadays she likes to swim, and distribute the Street Newz, and share her interpretations about Technocracy. "There's a delicate balance in nature, and we need a delicate balance in the distribution of goods and services to the people without waste," Kay explains. A self-described 'trouble-maker,' she says "it's good to be alive ... I'm going to be dead for a long time."

Do you have an opinion about Technocracy? streetnewz@islandnet.com

Printed in the Times Colonist, April 29th, 05: "Would-be politicians at the all-candidates meeting organized by social workers this week sat in slightly stunned silence as they were berated by a 94-year-old woman, who then regaled them with the unabridged story of her life. 'It seems to me you are splitting dogmatic hairs,' said Kay Dixon, eyeing the four candidates fiercely. It didn't get much better for them after moderator Michael Prince gently asked Dixon to ask a question. 'My question is - What the Hell is Democracy,' she demanded."

Are you a man searching for employment, or looking to gain basic computer skills?

The Salvation Army, 525 Johnson St., has computers available for you.

They're also graciously accepting computers and parts.

Contact David Stevenson @ 384-3396

Access Justice, provides volunteer lawyers to advise clients on civil matters.

Wednesdays, 2-4 pm 386-8521

Thursdays, Noon-2 pm 388-4728

Call for an appointment.



Lil, a volunteer, helps clean up the Open Door.



Musician Lee Hamer jamming at the Open Door, with friends. Bluesharpca@yahoo.ca

"Numerous studies, published in the most reputable scientific and medical journals, have compared the strength and stamina of people eating different diet-styles ... the common prejudice that meat gives strength and endurance, though plastered on thousands of billboards, and drummed into us since childhood, has absolutely no foundation in fact."

John Robbins, formerly destined "to be a top cog in the Great American Food Machine," in A Diet for a New America

Oak Bay is a Municipality in your Neighbourhood



got wheels, will travel

Originally from Ontario, Kenny has lived in Victoria since 1988. He's one of our resident bottle collectors, a recycler who rescues cans and bottles from an otherwise wasted existence resting among the clutter at the local landfill.

Kenny's been off and on welfare for many years, relying on food banks and soup kitchens to survive. He's been on the streets, homeless, for 8 years and, like many who comprise the street community, he maintains a friendly and gentle outlook - despite the daily hardships he faces.

A couple of months ago Kenny fell and broke his leg. He was in hospital for about a month, during which time he received \$95 from social services. He's currently supporting himself with bottle collecting and panhandling. Kenny can't get back onto welfare unless he can find a dwelling place for \$325 a month or less. A few years ago that was possible, but no more. The average purchase price for a house in Victoria is about \$400,000, and rent, even in buildings with no outstanding debt, has sky-rocketed the past few years. Many are hoping that Social Services will catch up with the times - a single recipient currently receives only \$510 a month and there's no incentive to work part-time because all earnings are to be returned to the government.

Kenny usually hangs out in James Bay or on Cook Street, and occasionally in the downtown. Where he used to push a shopping cart full of recyclables, now he's pushing himself in an old wheelchair borrowed from the Red Cross. "It gives me something to do," he told me recently, in his usual amazingly carefree manner.

They were nice to him in the hospital, Kenny recalls. He's thankful that we still have some publicly funded health services available, but he's looking forward to getting back onto his feet - literally and metaphorically.

Oak Bay Green Committee

"Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them." -- Bill Vaughn.

How The Oak Bay Green Committee (OBGC) began:

In late January, 2005, South Oak Bay residents received a rude awakening when they tried to prevent the destruction of a magnificent old beech tree from new development on Bartlett Avenue. Although the residents rallied together, phoning and writing to Oak Bay Mayor Christopher Causton and the development company, nothing could be done to save the tree.

The concerned residents were faced with the unpleasant truth that, without adequate tree protection bylaws, all other trees can be, destroyed in our municipality as properties are cleared for new construction and other reasons. The unfortunate reality is that the only tree protected in Oak Bay is the Garry oak, namesake of the municipality. All other trees can be, and are, frequently and needlessly destroyed for development and other reasons.

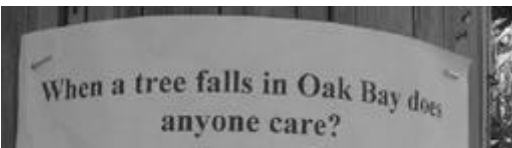
The Oak Bay Green Committee (OBGC) is comprised of concerned community members who believe the Oak Bay Municipality needs to create more comprehensive tree protection bylaws. The OBGC believes that mature trees of all species, on public and private land, need better stewardship by the community.

It has been ten years since the Garry Oak Bylaw, it is high time for an update. Trees are valuable community assets, crucial to a healthy environment.

What the Oak Bay Green Committee (OBGC) has been doing:

Working together as the newly formed OBGC, residents started canvassing the neighbourhood to find out if they were the only ones who believed the community's trees needed better protection. The OBGC was pleased when neighbours responded with wholehearted support, an overwhelming 95 percent supporting the creation of more comprehensive tree protection bylaws.

The OBGC campaign includes door-to-door canvassing, petition signing, e-mailing, postering, and encouraging concerned community members to contact the Mayor and Municipal Council and the media, expressing support for preservation of our green community assets.



The OBGC has researched and written a comprehensive tree protection bylaw proposal that makes an irrefutable argument in favour of increased stewardship of our urban forest. A tree protection bylaw proposal has been submitted to Mayor Christopher Causton and Municipal Council asking that the lack of tree protection in Oak Bay be addressed.

What's going on in other municipalities:

Oak Bay is lagging behind other Vancouver Island municipalities in managing the community's 'green' assets. For example, the municipality of Saanich has implemented a more comprehensive tree protection bylaw, and Victoria has updated its tree protection bylaws to protect more tree species. In fact, the bigger the city, the more tree protection is recognized as important. Vancouver and Toronto have extensive tree protection bylaws. Please visit our website for examples of what other communities are doing to preserve and protect their community assets for future generations.

The Current Situation in Oak Bay:

Without adequate tree protection bylaws, private property often is clear-cut to make way for development. The result is neighbours in discord, a loss of privacy screening, loss of habitat for wildlife, loss of aesthetic beauty, and the loss of environmental and psychological benefits of living in a green habitat.

Council Meeting - June 6th - a chance to be heard:

The Oak Bay Green Committee (OBGC) and supporters are on the agenda for the Oak Bay Council Meeting, June 6th at 7 pm at the Oak Bay Municipal Hall. A strong show of public support is crucial. We will all have an opportunity to address Mayor and Council. Please let us know if you are interested in addressing a specific issue during this meeting as we want to create a 'speaking strategy' to ensure all key points are covered by community and OBGC members.

Without better protection and management, Oak Bay's beautiful landmark trees will disappear rapidly.

Submitted by Valerie Williams

www.oakbayconserveatree.com, oakgreen@telus.net, 250-370-0343

... an angel in our midst ...



Ever notice that some days just feel different, but you don't know why?

Local musician and storyteller, Carol Ann Carter, explains. "Today's Angel Day!"

Angel Days are not predictable. They don't function on a set schedule, some days just are. Angel Days are like gypsies, or minstrels (which Carol Ann is also happy to discuss) - they appear and then they're gone.

On this day King and Joey, Carol's canine companions, are nowhere present. They can't handle Angel day, Carol Ann explains.

Carol Ann, & her angel friends, can sometimes be found outside the liquor store at Fort & Foul Bay.



Let your pets stay home while you're away.

Janine's a reliable, and trustworthy companion.

413-3235

Drug War Casualties - Part II.

Written by Phyllis Kahn, a human rights enthusiast.

Part II of Drug War Casualties highlights the nature of addiction & recovery alternatives & cites how ending the 'war on drugs' is in the best interests of the straight as well as the addicted population. (An aside: My purpose is to promote understanding in order to stop the persecution.)

Addiction basically serves as a crutch to cope with ordinary life circumstances. Jerry Stahl, a recovered addict says, "the whole point of taking drugs is to keep you from thinking." However, the use of addictive drugs to regulate, control &/or obliterate thoughts & emotions creates problems rather than resolves them.

Addiction jars the natural cycles of ups and downs off kilter which generates impaired cognitive ability and results in poor judgement, anti-social behaviour and often manifests in psychoses. The distortion of natural cycles renders it practically impossible for addicts to make sense of life, let alone find their journey meaningful or gratifying.

An addict's distorted emotional cycles and irrational behaviour will conflict with a straight lay person's natural ups and downs and results in irresolute discrepancies between them. Yet addicts exhibit an uncanny ability to "con themselves" as Jerry Stahl says into believing their addictions are not harmful to themselves or others. The illusion of being invincible allows them to self-destruct.

Psychologists maintain that addicts do not respond to traditional therapy because their illogic is diametrically opposed to consensual reality. Professionals who specialize in addiction contend that addicts suffer an overwhelming burden of guilt which they inadvertently project on others.

Addicts are also plagued by intense internal conflict. Robert Louis Stevenson, author of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* written during a cocaine binge depicts a drug induced case of dual personality psychoses. Although the story is fiction, Stevenson vividly illustrates the dynamics of how good is overcome by evil. It is common knowledge that cocaine addiction brings out the dark side of a person's character and personality.

"Current practices of cocaine use is relatively recent by historical standards, coca leaves have been chewed for at least 15 centuries and have been used in the past for a variety of religious, medicinal, and work related reasons." (Weiss & Mirin) Cocaine was originally the drug of choice among the rich and famous until "crack," the less expensive variety, made it available to middle and lower income groups.

Crack addiction is now eroding the family structure of our society. Some "crack-heads" try to maintain their addiction within the family setting to no avail. Once under its spell, addicts generally bond with other crack-heads and engage in a ritual worship of the drug. They lose control of their lives as they knew them & engage in a relentless pursuit of the original high that lasted less than a few minutes and can't be duplicated.

Shame and blame theories are difficult to resist in light of the addict's anti social antics. However, it is the addiction that motivates them to steal in order to satisfy an overwhelming craving for relief from getting sick. William Burroughs refers to this withdrawal phenomenon an "allergic reaction". Burroughs says that heroin addicts reach a comfort level and do not require an increasingly undetermined quantity of the drug to satisfy them. However, crack addicts want more of their drug immediately because the 'high' diminishes rapidly which can lead to the practice of binging.

Withdrawing or coming down is called a "crash" which involves paranoid depression and physical sickness referred to as being "drug sick." Professionals call this reaction "cocaine psychoses."

Illegal drugs do not comprise a complete picture when it comes to mental disturbance &/or physical sickness associated with addiction. Technically, "mental illness" is a chemical imbalance in the brain that manifests in symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia, chronic depression, manic depression &/or a combination thereof.

"More than 35,000 prescription drugs are on the market and new ones appear almost daily. No reliable source details the effects of one or the other and doctors are 'understandably' hard put to protect their patients. Drugs that depress the central nervous system sometimes intensify each other's effect, so that depression is actually increased rather than relieved. Such drugs include barbiturates, other sedatives, tranquilizers, muscle relaxants, antihistamines, narcotic analgesics, pain relievers and alcohol. Where a single

drug may not be harmful, the addictive effects of two or more drugs may considerably impair the functioning of the brain" (Psycho-Dietetics).

The tragic circumstances of addiction cannot be taken lightly or dismissed as a moral issue or a character flaw. Addiction does not discriminate against age, sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, intelligence or economic status. Theoretically, anyone can become an addict. Also, we live in a dehumanized, high tech, instant gratification culture where every aspect of the human condition is reduced to a commodity. Is it any wonder why masses of people are driven to despair and self destruction?

Unfortunately, getting "clean" is easier said than done. Jerry Stahl says, "the horrific

part about getting clean is that at the weakest point in your life you're required to be the strongest. And not until you finally put down the stuff do you realize with stinging clarity



precisely why you picked it up in the first place." Sometimes, shortly after losing everything, an addict will resolve not to live like this any longer while others remain addicted for years despite the consequences.

The most grim aspect of addiction is the 'hit bottom' theory, whatever this juncture implies. One might logically presume that to hit bottom means a near death experience. However, addicts are known to OD on more than one occasion and continue using. It takes maturity to be transformed by a near death experience. However, addiction stunts emotional growth and development. Psychologist claim that addicts are fixated at the emotional level when they became addicted.

Scientific theory on traumatic experience in childhood which re-arranges brain cells can also pre-dispose the victim to addiction. Therefore, near death experiences for a traumatized addict could conceivably augment their addiction. Hitting bottom is a long way down and death is far more common for addicts than embracing life before it's too late. Therefore, the laissez faire approach to recovery is rather disturbing.

More from Phyllis' essay, "Drug War Casualties," in the next issue of Victoria Street Newz (scheduled for release August 1st, 2005).

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SOLID, continued from page 12

I asked them what they'd request from the new government and their response was, perhaps, predictable. "Funding," Carol said, "funding so that SOLID can have its own office, fund our programs, allow us to give consumers some employment ... many of us have hepatitis, a number of us have HIV, so our health isn't great, so our ability to work is severely compromised, but we are able to earn money under the current legislation."

Carol is an advocate for the four pillar approach, currently in place in Vancouver- Harm Reduction, Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement. On the City of Vancouver website, Mayor Larry Campbell writes "prevention, as you know, is close to my heart after years as the province's Chief Coroner where I encountered so many deaths attributed to substance use - deaths that may have been prevented had we taken a different, and more comprehensive, approach. Prevention is at the core of creating communities where individuals and families flourish, addiction is viewed as a health issue and appropriate responses are in place for those who develop problems with the use of psychoactive substances." (www.city.vancouver.bc.ca)

Bob would like to see all drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, legalized and available by prescription. "A person shouldn't be conveniently enabled to smoke four packs a day," he says, "there could be a limit on one or two packs, and so much coffee, and so much alcohol, and then the other drugs maybe a tribunal of three people to approve a person for heroin or cocaine and again have a prescription method where there's a limit."

What's most important, Carol suggests, is to remember that "people with addictions are not the bad guys - they're somebody's children. They're somebody's brothers, somebody's sisters, somebody's, aunts, somebody's uncles, somebody's mothers, somebody's fathers, somebody's grandchild."

SOLID meets Wednesdays between 7 and 9 pm at 1947 Cook St.
Contact Carol at momma@vcn.bc.ca
Vancouver Resources:: VANDU - www.vandu.org/; DTES - HIV/IDU Consumers' Board - (604) 688.6241

FAS & ADHD cont'd fm pg 6

Like the FAS people, ADHD types have trouble fitting in right from the start! Self-esteem is the first to go, school is difficult for sum, imposable for others, steady employment can be a challenge, as can the ability to develop relationships. They slowly get spun to the fringes of society, often unable to make a living, forced into acts of desperation which some times lead to incarceration! A lucky few who find their niche might thrive or even achieve greatness!

If society would recognize this wasting of talent and level the paying field we might free up some prison space and benefit from the otherwise wasted, hidden talent-a multiple win situation

With a little help & understanding a greater number might find their niche! The savings to the country could be enormous! The down side; pink slips for prison staff! Which has its up side; ex-prison staff are in turn freed up to do more meaningful things, maybe even contribute to the GNP.

For more: www.acbr.com/fas/, www.come-over.to/FAS/PrisonersFAS.htm, www.fetalalcohol.com/ADHD.htm, www.fetalalcohol.com/what-is-fase.htm

poetry art and music

Uncertainty

As I saunter down the avenue
and read about kidnappers in Columbia
I wonder how long this sense of happiness
will last as the rich get richer in Canada
and it looks like the middle class is being wiped out
so the slaves of wages will engage in competition
for a mere pittance
while the rich get richer and this love of America
drives us into poverty
where are the values of social democracy
they are fading into the international global security
for the few while we remain the victims of terrorism
it grows with paranoia and we wonder how long
our peace will last as the iron fist closes down
on freedom and when will we flee the last vestiges
of 'liberation'
we are falling into uncertainty while the power behind the
power laughs
at our ignorance and manipulates our
lives with grotesque materialismo as we sink into the
slime of control and we fall asleep with unconscious drives
that take us down into the pit of retribution Oh Lord
when will we live our solutions?

by Solange



Co-dependent See

Don't know where I'm goin
Or if I care
I got sucked into hell
Forgot why I'm here
With false pride in no morals
I strike a pose
And rip off your treasures
To powder my nose
Your boundaries don't stop me
Aunty Social's culprit
Cause my love is a dope
With a chemical tit
Marriage to her fits like a noose
Been sufferin many long years
Of abuse
Thinkin I'll quit her
Don't seem like no use
Can't seem to break free from my cult family
With drug buddies I share
Toxic loyalty
Our lives don't have purpose
On that we agree
Our needs are all met
Synthetically
We're all drug war casualties
Obviously
My life I expend on past memory
I live in a bitter regretful stuck place
With issues I find too freaky
To face
As for happiness and love
I'd rather sedate
I can't keep a promise
True friend or a date
My soul I can't find it
It could be too late
You can't raise the dead
I'm numb as can be
So don't bother drowning
In The Co-dependent Sea

Phyllis Kahn c May 14, 2005



The Buddha taught that one should practice loving kindness to all sentient beings.
Still, would it kill you to find a nice sentient being who happens to be Jewish?

Though only your skin, sinews, and bones remain,
though your blood and flesh dry up and wither away,
yet shall you meditate and not stir
until you have attained full Enlightenment.
But, first, a little nosh.

*Reprinted with permission from Zen Judaism: For You, a Little Enlightenment
by David M. Bader (Harmony Books) © 2002
www.extremely.com*



Victoria Street Newz

Zen Judaism

If there is no self,
whose arthritis is this?

Be here now.
Be someplace else later.
Is that so complicated?



Drink tea and nourish life.
With the first sip... joy.
With the second... satisfaction.
With the third, danish.

Wherever you go, there you are.
Your luggage is another story.

Accept misfortune as a blessing.
Do not wish for perfect health
or a life without problems.
What would you talk about?

The journey of a thousand miles
begins with a single "oy."

There is no escaping karma.
In a previous life, you never called,
you never wrote, you never visited.
And whose fault was that?

Zen is not easy.
It takes effort to attain nothingness.
And then what do you have?
Bupkes.

The Tao does not speak.
The Tao does not blame.
The Tao does not take sides.
The Tao has no expectations.
The Tao demands nothing of others.
The Tao is not Jewish.

Breathe in. Breathe out.
Breathe in. Breathe out.
Forget this and attaining Enlightenment will be the least of your problems.

Let your mind be as a floating cloud.
Let your stillness be as the wooded glen.
And sit up straight.
You'll never meet the Buddha with posture like that.

Be patient and achieve all things.
Be impatient and achieve all things faster.

To find the Buddha, look within.
Deep inside you are ten thousand flowers.
Each flower blossoms ten thousand times.
Each blossom has ten thousand petals.
You might want to see a specialist.

To practice Zen and the art of Jewish
motorcycle maintenance, do the following:
get rid of the motorcycle.
What were you thinking?

Be aware of your body.
Be aware of your perceptions.
Keep in mind that not every physical
sensation is a symptom of a terminal illness.

The Torah says, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."
The Buddha says there is no "self."
So, maybe you are off the hook.



Mr. Floatie Reads the Street Newz !!



In an article titled "Mr. Floatie' protests sewage dumping," Mr. Floatie, or someone named James "said B.C. has got to look good for the 2010 Olympics, adding the province doesn't want to get a 'brown medal.'" © Broadcast News 2005
www.canada.com/vancouver/bcvotes/story.html?id=340a6714-d9a8-48c5-97d4-084f40902e2b

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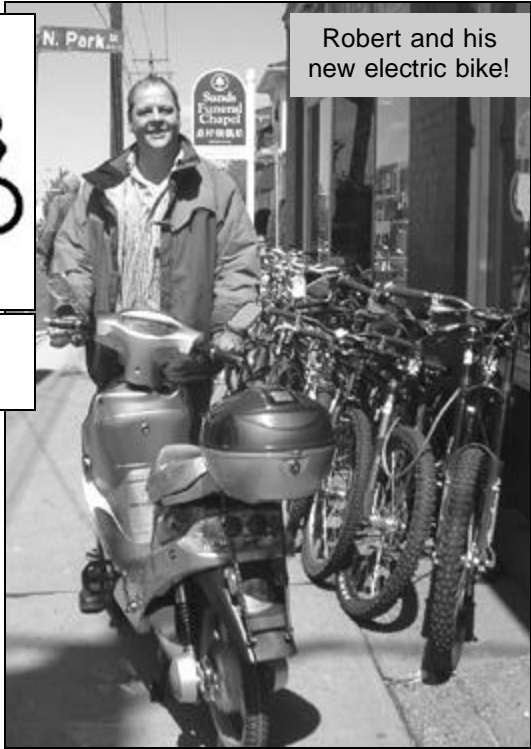
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www.vindicator.ca/vindicator/membersList.asp

Provincial MLAs:

http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/mla/3-1-3.htm



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101.9 FM, 104.3 cable, cfuv.uvic.ca

Gorilla Radio - Mondays 5-6 pm
Winds of Change - Thursdays 11-noon
Forever Young - Thursdays 2-3 pm
Gabriola Island Radio - Thursdays 6-7 pm
The Hidden News - Fridays 9-10 am
Not-for-Profit Radio - Fridays 8 AM
... and much more ...cfuv.uvic.ca

Vancouver's Coop Radio
CFRO - 102.7 FM
Listen online at www.coopradio.org
Village 900 am from Camosun College

SFU Radio - www.cjsf.bc.ca/

Indy Radio radio.indymedia.org

Radio 4 All - Radio4all.net

Air America Radio - airamericaradio.com



Gandhi is right
War is wrong

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www.victoriasoapexchange.com



Central America Support Committee

CASC

Join us first Wednesday of every month;
7:30 PM upstairs at 1923 Fernwood Road
Email: casc@telus.net
Phone: 598-7690
Web: http://casc.communitypipe.org/



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Thanks to Katrina from Honeygirl (www.pacificmusic.net) for forwarding this list, which she found on one of her favourite sites.

Thanks also to Monica from the Endangered Species Chocolate Company - www.chocolatebar.com - for permission to reprint the following (with some additions).

Be Involved - eat good chocolate... and read!

Home Recycling

- ◇ Reuse everything that you can. Recycle as much as possible - The CRD has extended its recycling: www.crd.bc.ca/es. Compost your veggie food scraps.
- ◇ Use products made from recycled products, rather than new materials. Purchase reusable, rather than disposable, towels, napkins, diapers, storage containers, etc.
- ◇ Use phosphate-free detergents. Do not use pesticides. Properly dispose of hazardous waste and NEVER pour hazardous chemicals down the drain! Use natural cleaners rather than chemical cleansers. For example, use vinegar and water to clean your windows, baking soda and vinegar to unclog pipes.
- ◇ Never leave the water running needlessly. Install a water-saving shower head and use cold water rather than warm or hot water, whenever possible. Set your water heater at 130 degrees and request that your utility company insulate your water heater at no extra charge. Turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth.
- ◇ Complete simple tasks by hand, rather than using electrical appliances. Turn lights, televisions, stereos, etc. off when not in use.
- ◇ Burn only seasoned wood in your wood stove or fireplace. Check it's source - don't buy old growth! Lower the temperature in your home (wear a sweater, use an extra blanket, etc.). Calculate your personal carbon emissions - earthfuture.com/climate
- ◇ Get your morning paper from the internet, rather than your front porch. Ask publishers and printers if they're printing with pc recycled or tree-free resources like the Street Newz does.
- ◇ Never use herbicides or pesticides - pull out the weeds from around your home and learn about natural and chemical-free pest control. Use mulch in your garden to conserve water.
- ◇ Plant shrubs and trees that require less water than average and are not prone to insect infestations. Dig up some of the grass in your lawn and plant native shrubs and trees instead. Compost your leaves and yard debris or take them to a yard debris recycler. Use organic fertilizers. Use a battery-powered mulch mower - replacing 1/2 of all gas-powered mowers eliminates the hydro carbon equivalent of 2 million cars!!!.

Car Recycling

- ◇ Never litter! No cigarette butts!
- ◇ Do not waste gas (drive sensibly, keep your car tuned, make sure that your tires are properly inflated, etc.).
- ◇ Extend the life of your tires (rotate and balance them, align your wheels, etc.).
- ◇ Recycle your engine oil and old tires. Buy a more gas efficient vehicle or better yet, a hybrid or electric car.
- ◇ Carpool or use public transportation, walk or bicycle whenever possible. Check out the Victoria Car Share Cooperative - victoriacarshare.ca

Work Recycling

- ◇ Start a recycling program...shredded paper makes wonderful packing material!
- ◇ Purchase products made from recycled material rather than new material. For paper, check out the buying club - rfu.org.
- ◇ Use reusable products rather than disposable products (dishes, cups, flatware, liquid chalk boards, etc.). Carry them with you and refuse styrofoam.
- ◇ Rotate or post memos rather than making multiple copies of them (if available, use voice mail or e-mail).
- ◇ Print or copy on both sides of paper, turn off office equipment when not in use.
- ◇ Use the stairs instead of the elevator.

Vacation Recycling

- ◇ Carefully dispose of items you throw away. Make sure that your plastic trash does not end up in the ocean!
- ◇ Set your home thermostat to a lower temperature and turn off your water heater while you are vacationing.
- ◇ Take reusable cups, dishes and flatware with you. Do not remove any plants or animals from their native habitats.



Artist John Quigley (www.spectralq.com) and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (wildernesscommitteevictoria.org) co-ordinated this aerial art at the legislature. March and rally photos at victoria.indymedia.org/news/2005/05/40574.php. This photo by Jeremy Williams, more photos at wildernesscommitteevictoria.org



- ◇ Purchase environmentally friendly and socially responsible souvenirs (no ivory or sea turtle shell trinkets!)
- ◇ Build a small campfire (no giant blazes!), or none at all. Use lanterns.
- ◇ Stay on the trails that are already created. And always remember, only take pictures and only leave footprints.

Lead by Example

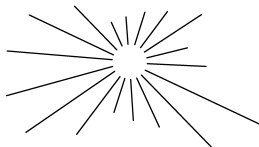
- ◇ Teach others, especially children, to respect our planet, and themselves, and all of the plants and animals.
- ◇ Purchase environmentally friendly educational products and subscriptions as gifts. Don't buy excessively packaged goods.
- ◇ Write to senders of junk mail, ask to be removed from their mailing lists. Post a "No Junk Mail" sign on your mailbox.
- ◇ Write to companies that needlessly test their products on animals, or that use animal parts in their products. Ask them to permanently ban such practices.
- ◇ Support environmentally friendly businesses by purchasing their products and using their services. Buy local organic produce.
- ◇ Abstain from purchasing the products and using the services of environmentally unfriendly businesses. Don't buy Old Growth!!
- ◇ Vote for candidates that share in our concern for the environment.
- ◇ Communicate your environmental concerns to your elected representatives, consistently.
- ◇ Eliminate animal products from your purchasing decisions.
- ◇ As you know, these are just some of the things you can do to contribute to the conservation of the environment. Every effort counts - no matter how small.

"We are concerned when people leak government documents ... People do freak out about these things and they ought to freak out because, if someone leaks something, as much as it's in your interest, it's not always in our interest."

Jeremy Berland, Asst. Deputy Minister of Ministry of Children and Family Development, quoted in the Times Colonist



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Kay



Ted



Rose



John



Shirley



Debbie



Marlene



Ken



Robin



James

Want to join our friendly team?
Work as much or as little as you choose.
See Janine at the Human Rights Coalition office (#418, 620 View St., in the Save the World building), Tuesdays 10-noon

counting the beans ...

Expenses	Feb/Mar	April/May	June/July
Paper & Printing Costs	860.58	903.34	1100.00
Office expenses	40.41	40.00	39.90
Wages & Salaries	1624.92	945.40	0.00
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	45.04	57.76	0.00
Submissions	35.00	35.00	48.00
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	35.00	29.50	35.00
Total Operating Expenses	2640.95	2011.00	1222.90
Revenue			
Advertising (payment rec'd)	150.00	150.00	0.00
Paper Sales	943.95	725.00	0.00
Donations	747.00	478.00	0.00
Subscriptions	100.00	120.00	0.00
Pennies from Heaven	0.00	38.00	0.00
Fundraiser w/Mask Removal	200.00	0.00	0.00
City of Victoria - grant	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total Operating Revenue	2640.95	2011.00	0.00

"We need to engage in whatever actions appeal to us. There is no act too small, no act too bold. The history of social change is the history of millions of actions, small and large, coming together at certain points in history and creating a power which governments cannot suppress."
Howard Zinn,
author of A People's History of the United States, 1980.



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